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Cover: Eared Grebe found 30 March 1993 at Centennial Park, Columbia, Howard County, Maryland. Photo 4 April 1993 by Peter Osenton.



AN EARLY OVENBIRD NEST FOR MARYLAND

MARK S. JOHNSON

Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) are forest-interior breeding birds of primarily Eastern North America that often prefer to breed in large tracts of mature forest (Robbins et al. 1989, Gibbs and Faaborg 1990). They are reported to prefer open, leaf-covered locations on the forest floor, which may explain why most nests are discovered alongside woodland trails (Bent 1953).

While surveying a riparian forest tract in Harford County (approximately 125 ha) at 10:15 on 7 May, 1994, R. Metker and I identified an early Ovenbird nest. Initially, we spotted an Ovenbird running in a semi-circle along the ground, its head down and wings out from the body, though not fully extended. These movements were indicative of injury-feigning behavior of an incubating female. We immediately stopped and searched at ground level. We found the nest about 1 m from where I flushed her. I was able to count 5 eggs in the nest. All eggs were identified as Ovenbird eggs, as they were all of the same size and shape, and wreathed in brownish specks at the larger end (Harrison 1975).

According to Bent (1953), eggs are laid, one per day, one to three days after completion of the nest. Given this is true, this nest probably was completed no later than 1 May or 2 May, and the five eggs were laid no later than 3-7 May. The earliest egg date for Maryland (Robbins and Bystrak 1977) is given as 7 May. That nest, found on 7 May 1972 near La Plata in Charles County by Edward H. Schell, contained six eggs when found (Maryland Nest Record File), so laying may have started one day earlier than in our nest.

We returned on 30 May and found the Harford County nest unoccupied, save for one egg. The egg was cold, and subsequent analysis revealed no embryo. The nest was approximately 18 cm in outside diameter, covered with primarily dead beech leaves and leaf skeletons. The interior was weaved from dead grasses amongst fallen leaves on the forest floor. The entrance was just above ground level. The nearest living vegetation above the leaf litter was 20+ cm away. Many saplings and older trees were in the vicinity. The nest was at the terminal end of a declining grade, although at least 50 m from the floodplain of Bynum Run.

Almost directly over the nest was evidence of surveying activity, where saplings were cut and stakes were set, as this forest is slated for housing development. The probability of total nest failure was high since the mean incubation period for Ovenbirds is 12.5 days, the fledging period ranges from 8 to 12 days, and a bird was seen

within 25 m of the original nest exhibiting the same behavior on 30 May, indicating a probable re-nesting attempt. No evidence of fledglings were seen or heard in the immediate area.

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DECEMBER RECORD OF SOLITARY VIREO IN ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

TERESA SIMONS AND JIM PAULUS

On the afternoon of 19 December 1992, while participating in the Allegany County Christmas Bird Count (CBC), we observed a Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) at the intersection of Winchester and McKenzie roads southwest of Cumberland in Allegany County, Maryland. The intersection lies near the southwest corner of Pinto Marsh at an elevation of about 850 feet (260m).

We were working in an area that had been cut over many years before. None of the trees was over 25 feet (7.6 meters) tall, and much underbrush was present, especially Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). The time was about 2:10 p.m., the wind was calm, the sky was mostly cloudy, and the temperature was about 36° F (2° C).

We were recording the numerous birds that were flitting around in the brush when a small bird flew across the road and landed in a tree about 30 feet (9.1m) away and slightly above eye level. Using our binoculars, we both recognized the bird at once as a Solitary Vireo and made the following observations. The thick bill was black. The head was blue-gray with very obvious white spectacles. The back was greenish and the wings were darkish with pale edges to the primaries and secondaries. Two whitish

wing bars were very prominent. The tail was darkish and the legs appeared black. The underparts were clear white except for the flanks, which were yellow with faint streaking.

The bird stayed in the open most of the time, moving slowly and deliberately as vireos do. We did not hear it call during the ten minutes we watched it. It ate one of the black Japanese honeysuckle berries, then flew back across the road to a tall oak (*Quercus* sp.). We last saw it as it flew over the ridge and out of sight.

Other birds present at the time were Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

This is the first winter season report of Solitary Vireo for Allegany County and the westernmost for Maryland. Eight December and January reports have been published, four from the Eastern Shore and four west of Chesapeake Bay. All reports are of single birds. The Eastern Shore reports are: 15 December 1991 near Hebron on the Salisbury CBC, 19 December 1982 on the St. Michaels CBC, 30 December 1988 near Purnell's Crossing of the Pocomoke River in Worcester County (*Md. Birdlife* 45(2):75), and 14 January 1989 at Pocomoke State Park (*Md. Birdlife* 45(2):75). The Western Shore reports are: 18 December 1974 at Thurmont in Frederick County (*Md. Birdlife* 31(1):39), 20 December 1986 on the Port Tobacco CBC in Charles County, 23 December 1979 on the Bowie CBC in Prince George's County, and 3 January 1973 at Pennyfield in Montgomery County (*Atlantic Naturalist* 28:127). There are no February reports for Maryland.

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THE FALLOUT OF AMERICAN WOODCOCKS AT POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK, MARYLAND

PATTY CRAIG

In St. Mary's County the "Blizzard of '93" consisted mostly of high winds and torrents of rain. It snowed before dawn on Saturday, 13 March, but the rains quickly melted it off. It poured all day, and in the evening we had sleet, freezing rain, and snow. I had heard that Pt. Lookout, at the mouth of the Potomac River, was almost evacuated because of flooding. So when the sun came out about noon on Sunday, my husband, Glen, and I drove to the park. I wanted to see if the winds blew anything in or the rains had flooded out any rails. It was not rails that I found, but twenty American Woodcocks (*Scolopax minor*) and eight Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) just standing beside the road. The woodcocks stood there resting or feeding on earthworms. Occasionally, they moved in their slow-motion, rocking walk to get a little closer to the worms or a little farther from the road. By this time the temperature was mild enough that the ice and snow melted by the roadside, but lingered in the woods and shadows. Therefore, feeding was good by the roads and ditches and little attention was paid to the motorists.

After telling Anne Bishop about the fallout, she and I returned to Pt. Lookout about dusk. This time we counted 161 woodcocks and eight snipe on the berms. None of these birds ever flushed or did more than move a little closer to the woods. During the next week I checked on the woodcocks several more times with the following results:

Date	Time	Woodcock	Snipe
14 March 1993	12:00 p.m.	20	8
14 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	161	8
15 March 1993	8-8:30 a.m.	17	4
15 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	199	22
16 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	134	13
20 March 1993	8:00 a.m.	4	0
21 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	0	4

On the evening of 15 March, when I observed the greatest number of woodcocks, only fifteen flushed. On the sixteenth the majority of the woodcocks and snipes flushed or "trotted" off to the woods.

I always began my 3-mile (4.8 km) survey at the intersection of Scotland Beach Road and Route 5 just south of the Confederate Prisoners' Monument. The driver would drive slowly and I would count the birds at the edge of the road from that intersection until we reached the point. Not until 20 March did I go into the woods, and at that time no woodcocks or snipe were to be found. Previously, most areas except the main road were blocked off, making parking difficult, and I worried about disturbing the seemingly exhausted woodcocks.

In general, when I surveyed at dusk it was too dark to count very accurately by the time we reached the point. However, once (16 March) there was enough light to try to count on my way out. I did not complete the count, but it was obvious that there were more woodcocks beside the road on the way out than on the way in. This seems to justify my theory that there were many more woodcocks in the woods that I never counted. During the day on 16 March, Robert Boxwell was able to park and walk into the woods. He flushed "hundreds" of woodcocks. That evening, on my way home, six woodcocks were flying in Ridge, Maryland. This could have marked the beginning of the resumption of their spring migration. They were virtually gone when I next checked on 20 and 21 March.

I believe the concentration of woodcocks was a local phenomenon in the vicinity of Point Lookout, as I wandered through about 10 acres of good woodcock habitat on my property seven miles north of the Scotland intersection on 15 March without finding any woodcock.

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OBSERVATION OF A GRAY SQUIRREL EATING AN ADULT CARDINAL

JOANNE K. SOLEM

When I returned to the house in mid afternoon of 15 February 1994, my husband, Bob, mentioned that a male Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) had hit a dinette window. It lay about four feet from the house on top of the icy sow cover. From the angle of the head, the cardinal appeared to have broken its neck. Several hawks had become intermittent visitors to the yard during this severe winter, so I left the dead bird hoping a hawk would find it. It was not surprising, therefore, when Bob looked out about 5:00 p.m. and noted that the cardinal was gone. I could see that there were about a dozen small red-tipped gray feathers lying scattered on the snow. Because of the thick ice covering the snow, there were neither footprints nor wingprints to provide a clue as to what had removed the dead cardinal.

About 5:30 p.m. I happened to glance out the kitchen window, which also faces the back yard, just as a small dark object drifted across the patio and settled on it. To my naked eye it looked like a scorched piece of paper that might have escaped from a neighboring chimney. With binoculars I could see that it was, instead, a dark, fluffy feather. I glanced up seeking the source. Sitting on a branch 20 feet up in a beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) was a gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). It held in its front paws the dead cardinal which it was eating. No attempt had been made to remove the large bright red feathers, so the bird was easily identifiable. I watched the squirrel for a few minutes, but, because we were on our way out, I did not wait to see how long it fed on the bird.

The following morning I checked beneath the tree where the squirrel had been sitting. A pile of downy red-tinged gray feathers had drifted to the base of a nearby tree, and a few downy feathers were trapped on the branches of understory shrubs, but there was no sign of a carcass or of any of the large red feathers.

The gray squirrel is considered to be mainly vegetarian in its food choices, but Paradiso (1969) says they will eat an occasional bird's egg or small bird. Diagrams in Martin et al. (1961) show that 98% of the winter diet of gray squirrels is derived from plants. Insect foods make up most of the remainder. The statement is made that some individuals eat birds' eggs or nestlings on occasion.

Undoubtedly, gray squirrels are highly opportunistic, especially under weather conditions that make it difficult to locate food. After this observation, I will no longer assume that small piles of feathers in wooded areas indicate the remains of a meal by a bird of prey or one of the more frequently observed mammalian predators.

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THE SEASON

SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1993

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

Following the pattern set in the preceeding summer and fall, the spring season was rather cool and moist. Wet conditions delayed some waterbirds and a major snow-storm in mid-March detained a few more migrating species. The passerine migration was again dismal, adding more justification for the fear that the problem is more than a local or cyclical trend.

Observers: Henry and George Armistead, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Carol and Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Patty Craig, Randy Crook, Richard Crook, Lynn Davidson, Fritz Davis, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Paul Fritz, Inez Glime, Jim and Patricia Gruber, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, Dick Homan, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Stauffer Miller, Carol Newman, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, William Scudder, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Teresa Simons, Don Simonson, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Dan and Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Erika Wilson, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Eastern Neck NWR by Jim and Trish Gruber.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Fairmount WMA (Somerset), Figgs Landing (Worcester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Green Ridge (Allegany), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaqundi (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Meadows Lake (Garrett), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Monument Knob (Washington), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), New Germany SP (Garrett), Noland's Ferry (Frederick), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield

(Montgomery), Pigtail Landing (Howard), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path, Columbia (Howard), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany), Tuckahoe SP (Caroline unless noted otherwise), Violettes Lock (Montgomery).

Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses. **Red-throated Loons** were found in small numbers this spring with 1 at DC on March 7 and March 28 (Janni), 3-5 at Bellevue on March 13 (Armistead), and single sightings at Deal Island WMA on March 20 (Brodericks), at North Beach on April 4 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff), at Loch Raven on April 8 (Simon), at Cobb Island on April 11 (Jett), and at Point Lookout on April 24 (Hoffman). **Common Loons** included 7 at Eastern Neck NWR on March 21 (Grubers), 45 at UMCF on April 25 (Farrell, Solem+), and a pair at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County throughout May (Mike Callahan). Steve Simon reported the high for **Pied-billed Grebes** with 43 at Loch Raven on March 1, Harry Armistead found one in salt water at Oxford on May 30, and Jack Foehrenbach discovered another at Quaker Neck on May 31. The 24 **Horned Grebes** at Triadelphia on March 28 (Farrell, Solem) were unusual for Howard County, and the 300+ in DC the same day may be a DC record (Janni). Paul Nistico recorded April 5 as the departure date for 50 Horned Grebes at Eastern Neck. **Red-necked Grebes** were also noted this spring with 1 at Ocean City on March 14 (Reese) and 1 at North Beach on April 4 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff). Jan Reese spotted a **Sooty Shearwater** at the Ocean City inlet on May 26, and the Brodericks notched a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** there after a storm on March 14.

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. **Northern Gannets** began with an adult off Holland Point on March 13 (Armistead), and other reports included at least 3 adults at North Beach on April 4 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff), 22 birds at Bellevue on April 4 (Armistead), 50+ at Irish Grove on April 10 (Ricciardi), 1 at Cobb Island on April 11 (Jett), 6 at Point Lookout on April 17 (Davidson), and 14 at Ocean City on May 26 (Reese). Patty Craig spied 2 **Brown Pelicans** at Point Lookout on April 18, Reese noted 3 at Ocean City on April 24, and Hoffman checked off 3 at Crisfield and 7 at Smith Island on May 8. **Great Cormorants** continue to be a spring presence with 5 at Ocean City on April 3 and 18 there on April 4 (Grubers), 1 at Point Lookout on April 17 (Davidson), 1 breeding plumage adult flying north over McKeldin on April 18 for the first Carroll County record (Ringler, Stasz), and another at Ocean City on April 24 (Reese). Inland **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to proliferate including 1 at Centennial on March 31 (Ott, Bockstie), 29 at Town Hill the same day (Paulus), 8 at Loch Raven on April 12 (Simon), 33 at Town Hill on April 14 and 8 there on April 15 (Paulus), 151 at Back River on April 18 (Scarpulla), 17 flying over Piney Run on April 20 (Ringler), 23 at Brighton Dam, Howard County on April 25 (Chestem), 75 at Trappe on May 9 (Reese), and 10 near Knoxville on May 17 (S. Miller). Ocean City remains a stronghold for Double-crested with 300 on April 2 (Grubers), and over 550 on April 24 (Reese).

Hérons, Ibis. An **American Bittern** was heard singing at Deal Island WMA on April 9 (Hoffman), and others were widespread with 3 at Hughes Hollow on April 13 (Janni), 1 at Libertytown Marsh, Frederick County on April 15 (S. Miller), 2 seen flying over a highway in DC on April 21 (Jett), 1 at Point Lookout on April 26 (Craig), 1 at Piney Run on April 28 (Ringler), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 30 (Mackiernan), 1 in DC on May 1 (Janni, O'Brien+), 1 calling at Hughes Hollow on May 8 (O'Brien+), and another the same day near Mason Springs (Jett). Gail Mackiernan reported a **Least Bittern** at Hughes Hollow on April 30. Migrant **Great Blue Herons** were five groups totaling 21

at Town Hill on March 31 (Paulus) and 10 at Hughes Hollow on April 2 (Simonson). Dave Walbeck observed 3 on nests at Little Patuxent Oxbow near Maryland City on April 12. The **Great Egret** noted by Reese at Taylors Island on March 7, prior to the snowstorm, probably wintered there. Doug Lister saw 2 at PRNAS on March 31, and solitary Greats were inland at Hughes Hollow on April 2 (Simonson), near Big Pool on April 4 (Bob Keedy), at Centennial on April 8 (Farrell, Ott+), at DC on April 11 (Ed Bruce), at Eastern Neck on April 14 (Grubers), at Cumberland on April 19 (Simons), and at Lilypons on April 24 (Lola Oberman) and April 26 (Warfield). Two Great Egrets were at Loch Raven on May 30 (Simon). The first reported **Snowy Egrets** were 2 at Turner Creek, Kent County on April 2 (Maggie Duncan). Others included 3 at Easton on April 4 (Reese), 70 at Fairmount WMA on May 1 (Hoffman), 1 at Centennial on May 4 (Solem, Chestem+), and 1 at Eastern Neck on May 30 (Grubers). John and Brenda Bell discovered an adult **Little Blue Heron** at Plum Tree Path on April 19, and Mark Hoffman counted 20 **Tricolored Herons** at Fairmount WMA on May 1. Migrating **Cattle Egrets** were 1 in Worcester County on March 22 (Walbeck, Kevin Smith), 2 at Piscataway Park on April 18 (Ron Kagarise), 5 north of Hagerstown on April 28 (Bob Keedy, Cam & Norma Lewis), 1 at Germantown the same day (Warfield), 1 near Allens Fresh on May 1 (Jett), 1 east of Hagerstown on May 2 (Harold Winger), 1 at Frederick on May 3 (S. Miller), 6 at Hains Point on May 3 (Janni), 1 at Johns Hopkins Road, Howard County on May 9 (John Jahney), and the high of 65 at Bozman on May 24 (Reese). Single early **Green-backed Herons** were at Triadelphia, Montgomery County on April 10 (Saunders), and at Centennial on April 14 (Chestem). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** of note were 1 at Mill Creek, Anne Arundel County on April 13 (Walbeck), 1 at Germantown on April 16 (Warfield), 2 adults at Centennial on April 17 (Chestem), and 2 adults at Lake Kittamaquundi on May 21-22 (Chestem, Zeichner, Wilkinson). The largest tally for **Glossy Ibis** was at Fairmount WMA where there were 80 on May 1. Others of note were 1 at Smithville on April 4 (Scudder), 1 at UMCF on April 6 (Solem, Bockstie), 11 near Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 9 at Easton on April 16 (O'Brien), 1 at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on April 17-18 (David, Joseph, & Marguerite Walbeck), 2 near Point of Rocks on April 18 (S. Miller), 2 flying over Fort Smallwood Park on May 2 (Ricciardi), and 5 at Whitehall Beach on May 15 (Walbeck).

Swans, Geese. A single **Tundra Swan**, seen since last July, remained at King's Creek, Talbot County throughout the period (O'Brien), and high counts included 1000+ at Queenstown, 5000+ in the Chestertown vicinity and 700+ near Easton on March 5 (Reese), 12,000 migrating over Eastern Neck on March 10 (Grubers), 4 flocks totaling 720 flying over Ellicott City on March 10 (Ott), 130 at Benedict on March 19 (Wilson), a peak of 150 at Piney Run on March 21 (Ringler), 3000 at Eastern Neck on March 21 (Grubers), 600 at Wye Mills on March 21 (Reese), 1000+ at Centreville on March 22 (Reese), and 600 at Barclay on March 24 (Reese). Stauffer Miller found 2 near Knoxville on May 8, and Marvin Hewitt discovered another at Denton on May 27. Jan Reese found a **Mute Swan** incubating 7 eggs in a nest at St. Michaels on the early date of March 8, 1 was at Piney Run throughout the period until March 21 when it apparently left with some Tundra Swans (Ringler), 68 were at Eastern Neck on May 3 (Grubers), and a depressing 215 were tallied at Hooper Island on May 8 (Armisteads). Dotty Mumford discovered a Greenland race **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Piney Run on March 20-21, for the first Carroll County record. The last large flocks of **Snow Geese** remaining in March were 3000 near Chestertown on the 5th, 4000 at Wye Mills on the 19th and 2000 at Kennedyville on the 20th (Grubers), over 700 at Elkton on the 23rd (Reese), and 20,000 at Kennedyville on the 27th (Grubers). A blue adult was noted at Blackwater on May 1 (Armistead+). A **Brant** was seen at Denton on March 8 (M.

Miller), another was in DC on March 28 (Janni), and 72 were counted at Ocean City on April 24 (Reese). Large numbers of migrating **Canada Geese** included 15,000 over Eastern Neck on March 10 (Grubers) and 610 in 5 flocks over Ellicott City the same day (Ott). Connie Skipper found 2 pairs of adults with 7 goslings at Bittinger on the early date of May 28. A small race goose was at Wye Island on March 2-3 (O'Brien, Michael Guilfoyle).

Puddle and Aythya Ducks. Exotics for the season were a female **Ruddy Shelduck** near Laytonsville from April 16 (Jim Felley) to May 8 (Robert Hilton), and a drake **Falcated Teal**, found during the winter, seen off and on at Piney Run through April 19 (Ringler). Puddle duck numbers were low, probably reflecting the declines in northern breeding populations because of dry conditions. The highest count for **Green-winged Teal** was only 65 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+). **Northern Pintails** included 200 at Ocean City on March 14 (Reese) and 22 at Greensboro on March 22 (Hewitt). Leo Sweeney reported a **Northern Pintail X Mallard** hybrid at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on March 31. Inland **Blue-winged Teals** included 1 at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on March 7 (Wilkinson), and 1 at Pinto Marsh on March 8 (Simons). **Northern Shovelers** of note were 10 at Cumberland on April 2 (Simons), the last 30 at Remington Farms WMA on April 5 (Nistico), and 2 males at Triadelphia Mill Pond on April 20 (Chestem). **Gadwalls** included 2 at Patuxent River Park on April 24 (Nistico), 100 at Deal Island WMA on April 26 (O'Brien), and 30 at Fairmount WMA on May 1 (Hoffman). Steve Simon tallied 170 **American Wigeons** at Loch Raven on March 8, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** was found this spring at Grasonville on March 8 (Ben Hren). **Canvasbacks** remain scarce with 15 reported inland by Farrell at Centennial on March 1-4 (1 male still there May 25), 350 with one albino at Cambridge on March 7 (Reese), and 12 at Piney Run on March 21 (Ringler). A **Redhead** was observed at Choptank from March 1 to April 3 (D. Ford), 22 were at Loch Raven on March 8 (Simon), 8 were near Cumberland on March 11 (Simons), another was at Lilypons the same day (Warfield), 9 were at Piney Run on March 21 (Ringler), and 5 were found at Emmitsburg on March 28 (John Cupp). Steve Simon noted the high for **Ring-necked Ducks** with 400 at Loch Raven on March 21; 1 was still present on May 21-26. Bob Ringler identified 2 **Greater Scaup** in flight at Piney Run on March 20, 2 were at Rocky Gap on March 21 (Simons), 1 was noted at Emmitsburg on March 28 (John Cupp), and 500 were tallied at Eastern Neck on April 8 (Grubers). Jan Reese had a big day for **Lesser Scaup**, tallying over 1000 at each end of the Preston Lane Memorial Bridges and 500 at the east end of the Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge, Calvert County, and another 1000 at the west end of the same bridge in St. Mary's County, all on March 3. The Grubers estimated 10,000 at Eastern Neck on March 10, and Mark Hoffman found 90 along the Nanticoke in Wicomico County on April 9.

Eiders, Oldsquaws, Harlequin Ducks, Scoters. **Common Eiders** found this past winter were still present at Ocean City where 2 females and 1 immature male were noted on March 6 (Osenton, Greg Gough). A male **Harlequin Duck**, present since December, was seen at Ocean City through April 24 (Reese). Good sightings of **Oldsquaws** for Howard County were the 2 males found at Triadelphia on March 21 (Farrell, Solem), the 3 birds at Brighton Dam, Howard County on March 22 (Chestem), and a male at Centennial on April 15 (Chestem, Bockstie). Simons reported 3 more Oldsquaws at Rocky Gap on March 29, 1 was at Greenbrier Lake on March 31 (Dave Weesner), 2 were spotted at Denton on April 1-2 (Hewitt), 1 was north of Frederick, a very unusual location for spring, on April 2 (S. Miller), 600 Oldsquaws were tallied at Bellevue on April 9 (Armistead+), 9 flocks (numbers unknown) flew overhead at Washington Monument SP between 11 p.m. and midnight on April 13 (Weesner), 1 was

identified at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Simons), 1 was present at DC on April 22 (Ted Unseth), 1 was at Piney Run on April 30 (Ringler), and a male was at Hooper Island through May 5 (Wilson). There were 30 **Black Scoters** at Hooper Island on May 1 and 115 **Surf Scoters** at Bellevue on April 4 (Armistead+). Other Surf Scoters were 6 at Cobb Island on April 11 (Jett), 1 immature or female at Centennial on April 22 (Farrell), and another off St. Clement's Island, St. Mary's County on May 31 (Anne Hobbs). **White-winged Scoters** were not to be left out with a male at Emmitsburg during March 15-30 (S. Miller), another at Rocky Gap on March 28 (Simons), and another off Bay Side Beach on May 29 (Shirley Geddes).

Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers. Steve Simon counted 42 **Common Goldeneyes** at Loch Raven on March 12 and 51 **Buffleheads** there on April 12. A nice count of 340 Buffleheads was made at Seneca on April 2 (Dave Czaplak). Dave Weesner noted a **Hooded Merganser** at Greenbrier SP on April 29. **Common Mergansers** were 34 at Piney Run on March 6 (Ringler), a female at Annapolis on April 17 (Mary Ann Mason), 2 found during the Washington County Spring Count on May 8 (Laura Grove, Mary Corderman), and 2 males at Triadelphia on May 24 (Magnusson). Large numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 375 at Eastern Neck on March 21 (Grubers), 44 at Rocky Gap on March 29 (Simons), 25 at Centennial on March 29 (Chestem), and 200 at Ocean City on April 2 (Grubers).

Diurnal Raptors. C. Adams noted an early **Osprey** at Denton on March 6, another was seen in Salisbury (Osenton, Gough), and another near Annapolis the same day (Bob Etgen). Others included 1 at Chestertown on March 7 (Grubers), 2 at Vienna on March 7 (Edgar & Alice Jones), 1 at Wye Mills on March 10 (O'Brien), 1 at Triadelphia on March 28 (Farrell, Solem), 1 at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 29 (Chestem), and 11 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Simons). Details were submitted for **Mississippi Kites** this season, seen more and more frequently in the north recently, with 1 report at Fort Smallwood Park on May 12 (Paul Fritz), and another there on May 28 (Ricciardi).

TABLE 1. HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL, ALLEGANY COUNTY, SPRING 1993

compiled by Jim Paulus

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	3/31	4/15	35	19 on 4/15, 7 on 4/9
Bald Eagle	3/2	4/15	9	3 on 3/30, 2 on 4/4
Northern Harrier	3/7	4/15	21	9 on 3/30, 6 on 4/15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/20	4/18	125	38 on 4/15, 19 on 4/14
Cooper's Hawk	3/21	4/15	15	6 on 4/15, 3 on 4/3
Northern Goshawk	3/9		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/7	4/14	20	4 on 3/26, 3/30 & 4/8
Broad-winged Hawk	4/12	4/18	349	279 on 4/15
Red-tailed Hawk	2/9	4/18	232	42 on 3/31, 24 on 4/9 & 4/15
Golden Eagle	2/18	4/14	20	7 on 3/7, 3 on 3/6
American Kestrel	2/28	4/17	23	7 on 3/31 & 4/15
Merlin	3/30		1	
Unidentified			63	
Total	2/9	4/23	914	387 on 4/15, 89 on 4/14,
(32 days, 121 hours)				69 on 3/31

Another sighting of a Mississippi Kite was reported on May 22 at the Chatham Mall in Howard County (Farrell), and there were at least three other reports without details. Erika Wilson observed a female **Northern Harrier** gathering nesting materials and carrying them to a marsh nest near Elliott Island, Dorchester County on May 5, and Bonnie Ott noted a late **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Ellicott City on May 20. Local **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived in Dameron on April 9 (Craig), and an even earlier one was seen flying over DC on April 3 (Janni). Paul Nistico noted Broad-wingeds arriving in Charles County on April 14. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was present at Deal Island WMA on March 6 (Osenton, Gough). **Bald Eagles** provided Howard County with a confirmed breeding record this year at Triadelphia (Solem). The Grubers notched an adult **Golden Eagle** at Urieville Lake, Kent County on March 22, and Mike O'Brien checked off an immature Golden near Little Orleans on April 18. High counts for the **American Kestrel** were 25 at Eastern Neck on March 10 and 45 on the wires between Chestertown and Easton on March 12 (Grubers), and over 60 flying over Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County in about one hour on April 3 (Craig). **Merlin** reports included 1 at Dameron on March 17 (Craig), 1 at Denton on March 19 (Short), 1 at Bellevue on April 4 (Armistead), 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 17 (Simons), 1 at Point Lookout SP the same day (Davidson), and 1 at Annapolis on April 24 (Ringler, Stasz). Sightings of **Peregrine Falcons** were solo birds at Galena on March 27 (Grubers), in DC on April 1 (David Cohen), and at Hains Point on April 4 (Janni).

**TABLE 2. HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK,
SPRING 1993**

compiled by Jim Paulus

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	3/7	5/15	61	14 on 3/7, 8 on 4/24
Turkey Vulture	2/28	5/28	2750	350 on 4/3, 306 on 4/4
Osprey	3/7	6/13	449	62 on 4/15, 45 on 4/13
Mississippi Kite	5/11	5/28	2	
Bald Eagle	3/6	5/24	22	4 on 4/25 & 5/15
Northern Harrier	3/15	5/11	152	34 on 4/3, 21 on 4/15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/6	5/24	2204	425 on 4/15, 225 on 4/25
Cooper's Hawk	3/2	5/28	549	63 on 4/15, 57 on 4/4
Northern Goshawk	3/8	3/9	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/2	5/11	239	44 on 3/6, 43 on 3/22
Broad-winged Hawk	4/12	5/28	731	184 on 4/15, 138 on 5/24
Red-tailed Hawk	2/28	5/15	335	30 on 4/25, 27 on 3/21
American Kestrel	3/6	5/28	1331	362 on 4/3, 185 on 4/11, 156 on 4/4
Merlin	3/26	5/2	41	8 on 4/11, 5 on 4/13
Peregrine Falcon	5/7		1	
Unidentified			150	
Total	2/28	6/13	9019	
(62 days, 350.4 hours)				

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails. **Ring-necked Pheasants** on the Eastern Shore were 1 at Taylors Island on March 7 (Reese), a male at Wye Mills on March 24 (Reese), and 2 birds at Greensboro on April 22 (Hewitt). Thirty- three **Wild Turkeys** were at Bittinger on March 21 (Skipper), 2 were spotted at Trappe on May 9 (Reese), and a female with 7 young was discovered at Prettyboy Reservoir on May 28 (Ellis Tinkler). Connie Skipper located a male **Northern Bobwhite** and 3 females at Swallows Falls Road, Garrett County on May 1. Two **Black Rails** were heard calling before dawn at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on May 8 (Anne Bishop, Jim Boxwell, Craig). O'Brien heard a **King Rail** flying over Poolesville at night on May 8, and a **Virginia Rail** was heard repeatedly at Plum Tree Path on April 25 (Atkinson). Two were present there on April 27 and May 14 (Farrell, Ott, Solem). Stauffer Miller also checked off Virginia Rails, with 2 at Libertytown Marsh on May 5, another was at Finzel Swamp on May 8 (Walbeck, Gwen Burkhardt), and another was heard flying over Hughes Hollow at night on May 8 (O'Brien+). A **Sora** was reported at Lilypons on May 3 (S. Miller). **Common Moorhens** included 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 23 (Homan), and 4 at Tanyard on April 27 (Engle). The high for **American Coots** was 800 at Loch Raven on April 8 (Simon), and 2 were found at Plum Tree Path on May 14 (Farrell, Solem).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. The high for **Black-bellied Plovers** was 100 at Figgs Landing, Worcester County on April 10 (Hoffman), and for **Semipalmated Plovers**, 300 at Fairmount WMA on May 8-9 (Hoffman). Hoffman also found 10 Black-bellieds at Fairmount WMA on May 1. Nice **Killdeer** counts were 40 each at Chesapeake Beach on March 19 (Wilson), and at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson). Jan Reese tallied 52 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on March 14, and **Black-necked Stilts** included 13 at Deal Island WMA on April 26 (O'Brien), 1 at Blackwater on May 5 (Wilson), 1 near North Beach on May 6 (Stasz), and 19 at Deal Island WMA on May 8 (O'Brien+).

Sandpipers. Mark Hoffman reported the high for **Greater Yellowlegs** with 135 at Fairmount WMA on May 2 and notched 70 **Lesser Yellowlegs** there the same day. Mike O'Brien noted 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** in Talbot County on April 9, and a few days later Stauffer Miller saw several in the Walkersville area on April 13. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at North Branch on April 14 (Simons), and **Upland Sandpipers** were numerous including 3 near Snow Hill on April 5 (O'Brien), 1 at Allens Fresh on April 11 (Jett), 4 at UMCF on April 18 (Atkinson), from 1 to 3 there from April 23 (Ott, Solem) through April 29 (Bockstie), 3 at Blackwater on April 24 (John Wilson), 1 at Blackwater on May 9 (Levin Willey), 1 at Trappe on May 9 (Reese), and 2 the last weekend in May at Oakland (Leo Weigant). Mark Hoffman found a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Fairmount WMA on May 8 as well as 400 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** there on May 15. Two Semipalms were near Clear Springs on May 20 (Bob Keedy, Cam & Norma Lewis). **Least Sandpipers** included 9 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 1 at Allens Fresh on April 18 (Jett), 340 at Fairmount WMA on May 8-9 (Hoffman), 52 at Back River on May 8 (Scarpulla), and 2 way inland at Lake Elkhorn on May 23 (Wilkinson). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was present at Fairmount WMA on May 1 (Hoffman), and another was near Frederick on May 17 (S. Miller). Mike O'Brien checked off a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Lilypons on March 27, and Roberta Fletcher had a nice sighting of 15 Pectorals at Greensboro on April 4. **Purple Sandpipers** were in evidence also with a high of 64 at Ocean City April 24, and 2 there on May 26 (Reese). High counts for the **Dunlin** were 95 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 200 at Figgs Landing on April 10 and 450 at Fairmount WMA on May 9 (Hoffman); a single Dunlin was found near Clear Spring on May 20 (Bob Keedy, Cam & Norma Lewis). A lone **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Fairmount WMA on May 2nd and 8th and an unidentified Dowitcher was at Figgs Landing on April 10 (Hoffman). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 6 at Blackwater

on May 1 (Armistead+), and the high of 100 at Fairmount WMA on May 8-9 (Hoffman). **Common Snipe** sightings were numerous this season with 28 birds at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson), 25 at King's Creek, Talbot County on April 8 (O'Brien), 25 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), and 25 at Allens Fresh on April 18 (Jett). Following the March storm, Patty Craig discovered quite a few grounded snipe at Point Lookout along with a nice tally of **American Woodcocks**: 8 snipe and 161 woodcocks on March 14th, 22 snipe and 199 woodcocks on March 15th, and 13 snipe and 134 woodcocks on March 16th. Other American Woodcocks of note were 13 at North Branch on March 9 (Simons), 6 near Ellicott City on March 24 (Magnusson), and 1 with 2 downy young in a nest at Oxford on April 27 (Reese).

Gulls. Returning **Laughing Gulls** were 2 in Ocean City on March 6 (Osenton, Gough), 150 at Ridgley on March 24 (Scudder), 15 at Easton on March 26 (O'Brien), an adult in breeding plumage at Georgetown Reservoir on April 4 (Howard Elitzak), and 117 near Back River on April 25 (Scarpulla). An adult **Little Gull** was at Hains Point on April 3 (Dave Czaplak, Fritz Davis), and another in full breeding plumage was identified at Back River on April 25 (Scarpulla). **Common Black-headed Gulls** made an appearance with 1 in almost full breeding plumage near Back River on April 4 (Scarpulla), and a first-winter bird at PRNAS on April 22 (Rambo). **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 1 at Pinto on March 28 (Simons), 24 at North Branch on March 29 (Simons), 2 at Greenbrier Lake on March 29 (Weesner), 12 at Loch Raven on April 3 (Simon), 350 at Hains Point and 300 at Seneca on April 3 (Dave Czaplak), 2500 at Back River on April 4 (Scarpulla), 2 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 90 at Piscataway Creek and 100 near Allens Fresh on April 11 (Nistico), 250+ at Point Lookout on April 14 (Craig), and 20 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Churchill). High tallies of **Ring-billed Gulls** included 6000 near Kennedyville on March 26 (Grubers), 142 far inland near Oakland on April 1 (Skipper), and 15,000 at Kennedyville on April 10 (Grubers). A lone Ring-billed was at Lake Kittamaquundi on May 31 (Chestem). The very dependable winter **Yellow-legged Gull** was noted at Georgetown Reservoir on March 7 by Ottavio Janni who also checked off a first-year **Iceland Gull** at Laytonsville in early March. Also at Laytonsville were 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on March 20 (O'Brien). The numerous sightings of this species included 2 near Kennedyville on March 26 (Grubers), a third-winter bird at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson), 1 at the Somerset County landfill on April 10 (Hoffman), 1 in breeding plumage at Green Manor Turf Farm, Howard County on April 10 (Ringler), an adult near Lloyds Landing, Talbot County on April 13 (O'Brien), and a second-summer bird at Back River on April 25 (Scarpulla). A first-summer **Glaucous Gull** was discovered at Fort Smallwood on April 17 (O'Brien, Wierenga, Ricciardi+), and Jo Solem found a **Great Black-backed Gull** at Pigtail Landing on April 17.

Terns, Skimmers. Two **Caspian Terns** were at Sandy Point SP on the early date of April 4 (Larry Cartwright), another was north of Frederick on April 12 (S. Miller), 2 were noted for the second consecutive spring at a pond in Greenbelt on April 16 (Southworths), 2 were at Lilypons on April 18 (S. Miller), a nice count of 44 was made at Fulton on April 22 (Farrell, Solem), 14 were at Piscataway Creek on April 25 (Nistico), and another visited at Plum Tree Path on May 20 (Farrell, Solem). **Royal Terns** included 1 at Popes Creek on April 3 (Jett), 19 along the Nanticoke in Wicomico County on April 9 (Hoffman), 1 at Benedict on April 11 (Jett), 1 at Patuxent River Park on April 15 (O'Brien), 5 at Eastern Neck on April 18 (Grubers), 8 at Point Lookout on April 24 (Hoffman), 2 at Choptank on April 24 (D. Ford), and 15 on the Patuxent River in Charles County on May 8 (Nistico). A probable **Common Tern** was at Ellicott City on April 21 (Ott). Several **Forster's Terns** were at Rumbly Point Road, Somerset County on April 3 (Lawler), some arrived at Eastern Neck on April 5 (Nistico), and 2

were at Denton on April 19 (Hewitt). Kyle Rambo observed 3 **Least Terns** at PRNAS on April 13, and the Grubers listed another at Eastern Neck on April 18. **Black Terns** were also present with 2 at Deal Island WMA on May 8 (Robert Hilton+), 1 at Fulton on May 19 (Farrell, Solem, John Heiser), and 1 near Frederick on May 19 and May 26 (S. Miller). The Brodericks tallied 7 **Black Skimmers** on the Wicomico River on May 12.

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Lilypons on May 3 (S. Miller), and another was reported in Caroline County on May 12 (O'Brien). For the **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, 4 were noted at Salisbury on April 26 (Brodericks), and another at PRNAS on April 30 (Lister). A **Barn Owl** was identified flying over Wye Island at night on April 4 (O'Brien, Michael Guilfoyle), 1 was heard flying over Frederick County at night on May 8 (O'Brien+), and 2 adults with 3 young and 2 eggs were near Walkersville on May 9 (S. Miller). Single sightings of **Short-eared Owls** returning north were made at Greensboro on March 26 (R. Fletcher) and in DC on April 3 (Janni). Mike O'Brien heard 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** calling at Cranesville Swamp on April 24. The first **Common Nighthawk** was at Cambridge on May 1 (Armistead+), and another was at Violettes Lock on May 2 (Bjerke). Paul Nistico had a nice count of 4 **Chuck-will's-widows** at Accokeek on May 1. **Chimney Swifts** began early with 1 at Piscataway Creek on April 3 (Nistico), 1 at Allens Fresh the same day (Jett), 1 at Bellevue on April 10 (O'Brien+), 3 at PRNAS on April 12 (Rambo), 8 at Greensboro on April 12 (Scudder), 1 at Chestertown on April 13 (Grubers), and 1 at Cresaptown on April 16 (Simons). Paul Fritz and Hal Wierenga noted 7 unidentified hummingbirds flying north over Fort Smallwood on May 6, and confirmed **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** included single sightings in Columbia on April 10 (reported to Phil Davis), a male at Salisbury on April 12 (Brodericks), at Chestertown on April 15 (Grubers), in Caroline County on April 18 (Fletcher), and at Ellicott City on April 20 (Ott).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. A very late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in Denton on May 17 (C. Fletcher). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reported were 1 at Susquehanna River SP on May 8 (Paul DuMont), 1 at Little Bennett Park, Montgomery County on May 16 (Greg Miller) and another in DC on May 19 (Janni). Mariana Nuttle noted an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Tuckahoe SP on April 18. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Denton on April 17 (Hewitt), and another at McKeldin on April 29 (Ringler). Janice Peacock reported an **Alder Flycatcher** at Swains Lock on the C&O Canal on May 17, another was heard calling in DC on May 19 (Janni), 1 was found in Garrett County near Accident on May 20 (Skipper), and another was seen singing persistently at Alesia on May 30 for the first Carroll County record (Ringler). Randy and Richard Crook checked off a slightly early **Willow Flycatcher** at Daniels on May 2, one was at Dameron on May 7 (Craig), and another at Bellevue on May 23 (Armistead). Mike O'Brien noted a **Least Flycatcher** in Rockville on April 25, and Tom Graham reported one in DC on May 23. The first **Great Crested Flycatchers** were 1 at Parsonsburg on April 17 (Pitney), 1 in Caroline County on April 20 (O'Brien), 1 at Sligo Creek on April 22 (Bill Matthews), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 23 (Homan), and 1 at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien). **Eastern Kingbirds** were a tad early with 1 at Centennial on April 14 (Bockstie), and another at Wye Mills on April 15 (O'Brien); L. T. Short noted 2 at Denton on April 23.

Swallows, Jays, Crows, Wrens. **Purple Martins** arrived on schedule with 1 at Denton on March 28 (L. Shaffer), and another at Hurlock on March 31 (O'Brien). The first **Tree Swallow** however, was a little early with a single sighting at Centennial Park on March 5 (Bockstie, Ott). Others included 1 at Ocean City on March 14 (Reese), 1 at

North Branch on March 21 (Simons), 15 at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on March 21 (Nistico), 15 at Hughes Hollow on March 27 (Ringler), 18 at Easton on March 30 (Reese), 150+ at PWRC on April 2 (Osenton, Gough), 200 arriving at Eastern Neck on April 5 (Nistico), and 3000 at Deal Island WMA on April 7 (O'Brien). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** included 1 each at Centennial and Lake Elkhorn on March 29 (Farrell, Wilkinson), and 6 at Ridgley on March 31 (Scudder). **Bank Swallows** were in a bit of a hurry with 2 at Centennial on April 2 (Farrell), 1 at PWRC the same day (Osenton, Gough), and 2 at Piscataway Creek on April 3 (Nistico). Others were 1 in Talbot County on April 13 (O'Brien), and 1 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Simons). Jo Solem was treated with a **Cliff Swallow** at Centennial on April 12; 7 were near Wye Mills on April 28 (O'Brien). The first **Barn Swallows** were 2 at Easton on March 26 (Grubers) and 1 at Wilde Lake on March 29 (Zeichner). Farrell, Ott and the Harveys tallied 112 migrating **Blue Jays** at Hugg-Thomas WMA in Howard County on May 2, and Ethel Engle checked off over 75 **Fish Crows** at Tanyard on May 19. Wren sightings included single **House Wrens** at Denton on April 13 (Nuttie) and at Parsonsburg on April 16 (Pitney) and a **Winter Wren** at Finzel Swamp on May 23 (O'Brien). The Grubers found a **Marsh Wren** at Eastern Neck on March 2 and 4 there on April 18, and Janni reported 1 at Hains Point on May 5. A **Bewick's Wren**, an exceptional find, was at Violettes Lock on May 1 (Bruce Peterjohn).

Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were 2 near Little Orleans on April 18 (O'Brien), 4 in Bethesda on April 19 (Simonson), and 2 near Swansfield in Howard County on May 1 (Chestem). High counts for the **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were 100 at Eastern Neck on April 14 (Grubers) and 125 between Green Ridge and Siding Hill on April 24 (O'Brien). Curtis Dew reported a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Valley Lee on March 18. The Grubers had some nice **Eastern Bluebird** counts on March 12 with 22 at Hope and 44 at Ruthsburg. Mike O'Brien heard 93 **Veeries** flying over Montgomery and Frederick counties at night on May 7-8, and noted a single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in Caroline County on May 11, and in Rockville on May 22. Dave Walbeck reported a **Hermit Thrush** at New Germany SP on April 15, and **Wood Thrushes** included single sightings at Lake Elkhorn on April 11 (Chestem), at Parsonsburg on April 17 (Pitney), in DC on April 19 (Janni), and at Denton on April 19 (Nuttie).

Mimids, Pipits, Shrikes. A **Gray Catbird** appeared at Denton on April 13 (Nuttie), another was at Cresaptown on April 19 (Simons), and a few were noted at Wilde Lake and Centennial on April 20 (Newman, Bockstie). **Brown Thrashers** included 1 at Accokeek on March 6 (Nistico), 1 at Rockburn Branch on March 11 (Ott), 1 at a feeder in Bittering on March 13 and again on March 21 (Skipper, Joan Opel), an outstanding count of 70 at UMCf on March 22 (Ott, Solem, Chestem), and 1 at Wye Mills on March 30 (O'Brien). On March 19, Walbeck counted 41 **American Pipits** at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, and O'Brien tallied 60 on May 2 near Lilypons. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Deal Island WMA on March 6 (Osenton, Gough). Others were 2 birds near Knoxville on April 2, another near Frederick on April 7, and 1 around Lilypons in mid-May reported by Stauffer Miller, as well as 1 near Clear Spring on May 19 (Bob Keedy).

Vireos. The first **White-eyed Vireo** was at Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County on April 3 (Craig), and the first one banded at Eastern Neck was on April 18. Another was at Elk Neck SP, Cecil County on April 18 (Nistico), and one was at Centennial the same day (Bockstie). An early **Solitary Vireo** was at Green Ridge on March 26 (Simons), and others were 1 at New Germany SP on April 15 (Walbeck), 2 at Sandy Point on April 15 (O'Brien), 1 at Susquehanna SP, Harford County on April 17 (Nistico), and 1 in Talbot County on April 20 and 4 at Pocomoke State Forest on April

27 (O'Brien). **Yellow-throated Vireos** began with 1 at UMCf on April 18 (Atkinson), 1 at Centennial on April 19 (Bockstie), 2 at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien), and 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 25 (Jett). Lola Oberman reported a **Warbling Vireo** at Whites Ferry, Montgomery County on April 24, Jan Reese found 1 at Trappe on May 9, and Jimi Wilkinson noted another at Patuxent NWR on May 23. The **Philadelphia Vireo** was not to be left out this season with 1 reported at Wilde Lake on May 8 (Newman), and early **Red-eyed Vireos** were 1 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Churchill), and another in Talbot County on April 21 (O'Brien).

Vermivora Warblers, *Parula*, *Dendroica* Warblers. Martha Chestem notched 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** at Vantage Point, Lake Kittamaqundi, Howard County on April 25. Eight **Nashville Warblers** were in DC on May 1 (O'Brien, Janni, Gough) and another in Queen Anne's County on May 3 (O'Brien). The first **Northern Parulas** were 2 at Patuxent River Park on April 15 (O'Brien). **Yellow Warblers** were on schedule with 1 at Triadelphia on April 17 (Farrell, Solem, Magnusson) and 2 in Talbot County on April 20 (O'Brien). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in Talbot County on April 30 (O'Brien), and the last one noted at UMCf was on May 23 (Atkinson). Chestem noted 2 **Magnolia Warblers** at Wilde Lake on May 31 (Chestem). The first **Cape May Warblers** were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 1 (Wilkinson), 1 in Queen Anne's County on May 3 (O'Brien), and 15 at Noland's Ferry on May 8 (Janni, O'Brien+). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** began with 1 at Wilde Lake on April 26 (Zeichner), and 1 in Talbot County on April 30 (O'Brien). The last Black-throated Blues were 2 at Lake Kittamaqundi on May 28 (Chestem). The first migrant **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was probably the bird found at Wye Mills on March 30 (O'Brien). Skipper reported 1 at Maple Glade Road, Garrett County on May 21, and Chestem checked off another at Lake Kittamaqundi on May 28. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was in DC on April 18 (Janni), 1 was at Rock Creek Park on April 19 (Fritz Davis), another was at Mt. Nebo on April 25 (Skipper), and 1 was at Tuckahoe SP on May 23 (Nuttie). A late **Blackburnian Warbler** was at the Applied Physics Lab in Howard County on May 28 (Ott). **Pine Warblers** began with 6 in St. Marys City on March 3 (Reese), and 50 were tallied at Pocomoke SF on April 7 (O'Brien). The **Prairie Warbler** at Sandy Point SP on April 15 (O'Brien) was a little early, as were the single sightings at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County on April 15 (Val Kitchens) and at Point Lookout SP on April 17 (Davidson). The three **Palm Warblers** delayed by bad weather at Point Lookout on March 14 (Craig) were migrating extremely early. Others, at PRNAS on April 3 (Lister), at Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Charles County on April 4 (Nistico), and the "yellow" Palm in Caroline County on April 8 (O'Brien) would have normally been the first migrants. Other Palms were 12 at Triadelphia on April 17 (Farrell, Solem, Magnusson), 8 "yellow" at Eastern Neck on April 18 (Grubers), 1 "western" at McKeldin on April 24 (Ringler), and 1 at Rockburn Branch on May 9 (Chestem). A male **Bay-breasted Warbler** was singing at UMCf on May 1 where the last one was noted on May 23 (Atkinson); another male was at Piscataway Park on April 30 (Nistico), and a female was at Wheaton on May 24-25 (Betsy Seavers). **Blackpoll Warblers** were just a few days early with 4 at Lake Elkhorn on May 1 (Wilkinson) and 1 at UMCf the same day (Atkinson). Another was near Allens Fresh on May 1 (Jett), 1 was at Parsonsburg on May 2 (Pitney), 1 was near Chestertown on May 3 (O'Brien), and the high count was 30 at Noland's Ferry on May 8 (Janni).

Other Warblers. The first **Black-and-white Warblers** were 2 at Pocomoke SF on April 5 (O'Brien). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was discovered at Point Lookout SP on April 17 (Davidson), and a **Worm-eating Warbler** was in DC on April 19 (Janni). An

early **Ovenbird** was at Pocomoke SF on April 5 (O'Brien), and other singles were in Waldorf on April 10 (Nistico), at Dameron on April 11 (Craig), at Hollywood on April 12 (Rambo), at Eastern Neck on April 14 (the only one banded there, Grubers), and at Salisbury on April 15 (Brodericks). **Northern Waterthrushes** included an early bird at Plum Tree Path on April 18 (Solem, Ott), 1 at Greenbrier SP on April 24 (Weesner), 1 at Pocomoke SF on April 27 (O'Brien), 12 in DC on May 1 (Janni), and 1 at Trappe on May 23 (Reese). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** began with 1 at Greensboro on March 30 (Hewitt) and another at Pocomoke SF on March 31 (Michael Guilfoyle). Others were 1 at PRNAS on April 3 (Lister) and 2 at Thomas Stone Historical Site, Charles County on April 4 (Nistico). The first **Kentucky Warbler** was at Salisbury Airport on April 20 (Brodericks). The first **Mourning Warbler** reported was a female in Gaithersburg on May 9 (Robert Norton), and others included single birds in DC on May 19 and May 21 (Janni), in Newcomb on May 19 (Steve Ford), at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 21 (Chestem), and singing near Frederick on May 24 (S. Miller). A **Common Yellowthroat** was at Pocomoke SF on April 5 (O'Brien). **Hooded Warblers** included 1 at Piscataway Park on April 19 and another at Accokeek on April 19 (Nistico), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 24 (Ott), and 4 at Pocomoke SF on April 26 (O'Brien). Extremely early **Wilson's Warblers** were reported at Harper's Choice, Columbia on April 19 (Atkinson), and also at Pigtail Landing on April 24 (Farrell). A late one was in Kent County on May 25 (O'Brien). The first **Canada Warbler** was at Pennyfield on April 30 (Homan), 1 was noted in Queen Anne's County on May 24 (O'Brien), and 1 was found at Daniels on May 31 (Chestem). **Yellow-breasted Chats** included solo sightings at Salisbury Airport on April 20 (Brodericks), at Patuxent River Park and at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 24 (Nistico), and in Pocomoke SF on April 26 (O'Brien).

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings. An early male **Summer Tanager** was near Henryton, an unusual location, on April 17 (Michele Wright, Marci & Anu Krishnamoorthy), 1 was at Pocomoke State Forest on April 26 (O'Brien), and another at PRNAS on April 28 (Lister). The first **Scarlet Tanager** appeared at Rockburn Branch on April 24 (Ott), and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Concord on April 30 (Scudder). **Blue Grosbeaks** included an early bird at Denton on April 13 (R. Fletcher), 1 at Salisbury Airport on April 20 (Brodericks), 1 at Rock Creek Park on April 21 (Fritz Davis), 1 near Marshall Hall on April 24 (Jett), and 1 at UMCf on April 25 (Farrell, Bockstie+). Peggylou Young had an early **Indigo Bunting** at her feeder in Chestertown from April 3 to 7, another was at a feeder at Indian Head on April 16 (Carol Gheblian), 2 were noted at Point Lookout SP on April 17 (Davidson), at least 5 were there on April 19 (Craig, Bob Boxwell), 1 was at Adelphi on April 22 (Marina Cordoba), 1 was at a feeder in Charles County on April 22 (Nistico), another showed up at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien), and 1 appeared in Rockville on April 24 (Mooreland). **Painted Buntings** continue to visit the State, with a male at a feeder in Hollywood from Feb. 8 through Feb. 22, and again on April 4 (Craig, Tina Dew+). Amazingly, a female Painted Bunting was also reported in St. Mary's County, apparently at a different location. Another Painted Bunting was seen in Berlin at a feeder, March 21-25 and April 4-8 (Mary Humphreys).

Dickcissels, Sparrows. One or two **Dickcissels** were singing near Lilypons on May 15 (Ken Berlin), and a flock of 3-5 birds was there on May 22 (John Anderton). Solo **American Tree Sparrows** were at PWRC on March 19 (Osenton), at a feeder in Oakland on March 21 (Skipper), at Wilde Lake on March 30 (Chestem), and very late sightings were made at Lilypons (S. Miller) and at Massey on April 3 (D. Southworth). Inez Glime noted a **Chipping Sparrow** at Federalsburg on March 26, and a **Clay-**

colored Sparrow was present this spring at PRNAS from April 18 through May 6 (Lister). Ottavio Janni checked off a **Vesper Sparrow** at Hains Point on April 2, and **Savannah Sparrows** appeared at UMCF on March 6 with 60 birds there on April 4, and 1 there on May 23 (Atkinson). Mike O'Brien tallied 30 Savannahs near Hog Island, Caroline County on April 7. An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** arrived at UMCF on April 18 (Atkinson), and another was at Hains Point on April 30 (Janni). The increasingly hard-to-find **Henslow's Sparrow** was noted again, with one near Finzel Swamp on May 8 (Walbeck, Gwen Burkhardt). In Garrett County, 2 were located on May 17 off Combination Road, 1 on May 20 near Accident, and 1 on May 26 off Potomac Camp Road (Skipper). Documentation has been submitted for an inland **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at UMCF on April 27 (Bockstie, Chestem, Zeichner). Lynn Davidson noted a **Seaside Sparrow** at Point Lookout SP on April 17, and Patty Craig had **Fox Sparrows** at a feeder in Dameron, March 8-26, with 7 birds on March 19. A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found on May 8 at UMCF (Atkinson), another was at Hashawha on May 16 (Ringler), and another was at Piscataway Park on May 16 (Nistico). A late **Swamp Sparrow** was noted at UMCF on May 23 (Atkinson), and Jo Solem located a dull-plumaged **White-throated Sparrow** at Hammond Village in Howard County on May 26. A lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** was in DC on May 16 (Steven Jones), and Stauffer Miller found a late **Dark-eyed Junco** near Frederick on May 19.

Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Icterines. A single **Lapland Longspur** was near Folly Quarter Road, Howard County on March 21 (Atkinson), and a **Snow Bunting** was noted at Wye Island on March 15 (O'Brien, Greg Gough). An early male **Bobolink** was at UMCF on April 25 (Atkinson), and 2 were near Lilypons on April 25 (O'Brien). Others included 1 at PRNAS on April 28 (Lister), 4 in southern Dorchester County on May 1 (Armistead+), 75+ near Lilypons the same day (Paul Pisano), 5 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on May 2 (Skipper), and over 500 at American Corner on May 6 (E. Unger). **Eastern Meadowlarks** included 90 at Easton on March 26 (O'Brien), and 1 migrant at Hains Point March 28-29 (Janni). **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted with 2 at Connie Skipper's feeder in Garrett County on March 11, 36 at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson), and 5 at Patuxent River Park on April 15 (O'Brien). A **Boat-tailed Grackle** was found at PRNAS on April 13 (Rambo). Mariana Nuttle found an early **Orchard Oriole** at Denton on April 17, one was at Hains Point on April 21 (Janni), another appeared at Wilde Lake on April 23 (Solem, Ott), and Dick Homan checked off another at Hughes Hollow on April 23. **Northern Orioles** began with 1 at Denton on April 19 (Nuttle), and 40 were observed flying north over Fort Smallwood on May 6 (Paul Fritz, Wierenga).

Finches. Connie Skipper still had 12 **Purple Finches** at her feeder in Garrett County on March 1, and 64 **Pine Siskins** there on March 29. Ted Unseth reported a Pine Siskin at Georgetown Reservoir, DC on May 14. The **Red Crossbill** has been elusive in recent years but Harry Armistead had 1 at Bellevue on April 4, Teresa Simons listed 4 at Green Ridge on April 18, two were at a feeder in Bethesda on April 22-23 (Joan Davis), and 3 were seen at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien).

BREEDING SEASON, JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1993

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

June temperatures and rainfall were normal and reservoir levels remained high, leaving little room for shorebirds, but some ducks lingered. July was hotter and dry.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Connie Bockstie, Martha Chestem, Patty Craig, Bill Dobbins, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Jim and Patricia Gruber, George Jett, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Stauffer Miller, Carol Newman, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Sue Probst, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, L. T. Short, Connie Skipper, Stephen Simon, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Dave Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Jim Wilkinson.

Banding was conducted at Eastern Neck NWR by Jim and Trish Gruber.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Lake Kittamaquidi (Howard), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise).

Loon, Grebes. A breeding plumage **Common Loon** was on the Potomac River between the Memorial and the 14th Street Bridges in DC, June 3-16 (Steve Jones). Bob Ringler located a single late migrant pretty far inland at Piney Run on June 13. Other Common Loons of note were one at Lake Artemisia, College Park on June 16 (Pamela Stephen) and June 20 (Mike Callahan), and another at Assateague, July 15-16 (Dobbins). Harry Armistead tallied 56 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Deal Island WMA, traditionally their summer stronghold, on July 17. Others were 1 at Point Lookout on June 6-10 (Craig), 1 at Lilypons on June 13 (Miller), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on June 19 (Jett), and 1 at Wilde Lake on July 24 (Chestem), the latter probably an early fall migrant.

Shearwaters, Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans. Jan Reese identified 2 **Sooty Shearwaters** and seven **Northern Gannets** at the Ocean City inlet on June 3. Numerous **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** and 2 immature Northern Gannets were spotted off Assateague on June 14 (Dobbins). One or 2 **Brown Pelicans** were at Point Lookout from June 20 to at least July 13 (Craig, Lister, Rambo). A Brown Pelican was at Barren Island, Dorchester County on June 28 (Rambo).

Cormorants, Herons, Ibises. An adult **Great Cormorant** summered at Ocean City (Dave Brinker). Howard County hosted some of the growing numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** found inland, with 6 flying over Route 29 near Columbia on June 1 (Atkinson), 1 at Wilde Lake on June 16 (Newman), and another at Lake Kittamaquidi on June 30 and July 3 (Chestem). An **American Bittern** was at Centennial on July 7-8 (Bockstie), and another was at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead). For the second summer in a row, Dave Walbeck reported nesting **Great Blue Herons** in Anne

Arundel County with 3 nests, 2 containing chicks, visible at Little Patuxent Oxbow, north of Maryland City, on June 12. Great Blues were busy in Dorchester County again with 120 active nests at Bloodsworth Island, 10 on Holland Island, and 2-4 nests on each of 18 artificial nest platforms along Fin Creek Ridge on July 4 (Armistead). A **Great Egret** was at Denton on June 3 (M. Miller), and another on the Anacostia River in DC on June 9 (Atkinson). Two **Snowy Egrets** were at Arundel on the Bay on June 6 (Walbeck+). The Grubers noted 8 immature **Little Blue Herons** at Remington Farms on July 24. An immature **Tricolored Heron** at Lilypons, the first record for Frederick County and the westernmost in the State, was found on July 29 and remained for about a week (Miller+). Scott Atkinson observed single **Cattle Egrets** at Ellicott City on June 6 and near UMCF on July 6, 12 were at Bohemia Mills, Cecil County on July 3 (Reese), and 90 were counted at Scotland on July 25 (Craig). The high for **Green Herons** in Howard County was 12 at Brown's Bridge on July 22 (Chestem). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** included 13 at Point Lookout on June 13 (Craig), and an adult flying over Columbia on June 27 (Wilkinson). Harry Armistead, who has visited Bloodsworth and most of the other islands in southern Dorchester County for several years, commented on the continued decline of Black-crowns in this area. Two adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were noted at Adamstown on June 29, and adults and immatures were noted there on July 29 (Miller). Tony White reported an immature **White Ibis** at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery County on July 30. A total of 210 **Glossy Ibis** were tallied at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead).

Waterfowl. The spread of **Mute Swans** continues at an everincreasing and disturbing rate. With an Eastern Shore breeding range already well established in Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, and parts of Dorchester counties, Harry Armistead tallied unprecedented southern Dorchester brood totals of 48 at Adam, North Pone, South Pone and Spring islands during a July 4th boat trip throughout the area. Bob Ringler noted that **Canada Geese** are doing quite well as breeders on the Piedmont, counting 105 at Lilypons on July 31. Four adults, with 6 young, were also noted at the Western Maryland 4-H Club at Bittering on June 1 (Skipper). Jo Solem reported a female **Green-winged Teal** inland at Brown's Bridge on July 26 and July 28. **Mallards** continue to expand in southern Dorchester County with 74, including broods on Adam and Holland islands, on July 4 (Armistead). A female **Northern Shoveler** was at Piscataway on July 18 (Nistico). **Gadwall** numbers at Deal Island WMA were as last summer with 75 on July 17, including 6 broods of young totaling 27 (Armistead). Armistead found only 5 Gadwalls on July 4 on Holland Island in southern Dorchester County, but no broods on this island where they have previously bred, and where Mallards are increasing in alarming numbers. **Ring-necked Ducks** caused some excitement this season, providing the first Maryland and regional breeding record. A male and female, accompanied by 5 ducklings, were seen on June 11 in the Anne Arundel County portion of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center added when the army closed Ft. Meade. The nest was located later on a small island in a pond (Patuxent Center staff). It is interesting to note that a pair of Ring-necks also lingered from April through July on a pond off Trotter Road in Howard County (Wallace). A **Lesser Scaup** was inland near Emmitsburg on June 6 (Miller), and a drake was at Piscataway on July 18 (Nistico). A **Common Eider** was seen off Ocean City inlet on June 3 (Reese). A drake **Bufflehead** was noted at PRNAS on June 24 (Rambo, Lister), a drake **Common Merganser** remained at Triadelphia through July 5 (Magnusson), and a drake **Red-breasted Merganser** was spotted at Point Lookout on June 12 (Craig, Jim Boxwell). Solitary **Ruddy Ducks** were near Emmitsburg on June 6 (Miller), and at Chestertown on July 13 (Grubers). An exotic female **Ruddy Shelduck** was discovered at Lilypons on June 19-20 (Chuck Finley, Helen Horrocks, Miller).

Diurnal Raptors. A **Black Vulture** was seen flying over Martin Mountain, Allegany County on June 4 (Ringler), and 47 were tallied at Tanyard on June 11 (Engle). An inland **Osprey** was noted at Emmitsburg Reservoir on June 6 (Miller), another was at Loch Raven on June 26 (Simon), 1 was at Lake Kittamaquidi on July 2 (Chestem), and L. T. Short reported young Ospreys leaving a nest in Denton on July 9. A pair of Osprey nested successfully at Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery County (Solem+). The first confirmed **Bald Eagle** nesting for Howard County, reported in the spring, resulted in the successful fledging of one young (Solem+). An adult was seen on the Potomac River in Frederick County on June 17, and another at Braddock Heights on July 31 (S. Miller). A family group of 4 **Northern Harriers**, plus 2 others, was noted at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead). Ethel Engle reported a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at American Corner on June 20, an unusual date and place for this species, and Harry Armistead found a **Cooper's Hawk** at Bellevue on July 31. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest with 3 young was found at Leonardtown on June 11 (Reese). Jan Reese noted single **Broad-winged Hawks** near Prince Frederick on June 11 and at Route 235, St. Mary's County on June 14.

Pheasants, Turkeys, Rails, Killdeer, Stilts. M. Miller found 2 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Denton on July 23, and **Wild Turkeys** included a female with 2 young near Gunpowder Falls on July 15 (George Bowersox), 2 fighting at Preston on July 23 (Engle), and 4 adults and 16 young at Foxtown Road, Garrett County on July 29 (Skipper). John Bjerke checked off 2 **Virginia Rails** at Deal Island WMA and a **Black Rail** at Elliott Island on June 12. Jan Reese found a **Killdeer** nest with 4 eggs at St. Michaels on June 27, and Elizabeth Pitney observed 2 very young chicks with their mother in Parsonsburg from July 29 into August. The inland high was 43 at Brown's Bridge on July 14 (Chestem). Bjerke found 5 **Black-necked Stilts** at Deal Island WMA on June 12, Armistead counted 6 adults there on July 17, and Ringler noted 1 adult there on July 25.

Sandpipers. Four **Willetts**, 2 adults and 2 young, were located at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on July 13 (Craig). **Upland Sandpipers** may have bred near Lilypons with 2 seen on June 13 (Nistico), and 4 on July 31 (Ringler). There was also an unconfirmed, second-hand report of an adult Upland with 3 young near Lewistown on June 1. Jan Reese noted 23 late spring migrant **Ruddy Turnstones** at Ocean City on June 3, and Bob Ringler reported 2 fall migrant **Red Knots** there on July 25. The 104 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Remington Farms on July 19 were some of the first fall migrants, as were the 5 **Western Sandpipers** found there the same day (Grubers). Harry Armistead saw 6 **Least Sandpipers** heading south over S. Holland Island and another over Crocheron on July 4, and tallied 135 at Deal Island WMA, along with 47 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, on July 17.

Gulls, Terns. There were 25 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Ocean City on June 3, and 18, with 3 in adult plumage, were at Cambridge on June 26 (Reese). A Ring-billed was at Centennial Park on July 1, and 4, including an immature, were there on July 26 (Farrell). Others noted were 1 in breeding plumage at North Beach on July 10 (Ringler), 1 in Frederick on July 22 (S. Miller), and 2 at Lake Kittamaquidi on July 28 (Chestem). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Eastern Neck on July 31 (Grubers). Five **Caspian Terns** were spotted near Hains Point, DC on July 22 (Larry Cartwright), and 2 **Royal Terns** were noted at Cambridge on June 26 (Reese). The breeding colony of Royals at Ocean City reached a nice total of 350 pairs this season (Dave Brinker). Paul Pisano found 45 nesting **Least Terns** on top of buildings in an industrial complex on Route

7, Harford County on July 4. **Black Terns** were present this summer with 1 near Frederick on June 1 (S. Miller), and 1 near Choptank on July 8 (D. Ford).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbird, Woodpeckers. A **Common Nighthawk** was discovered south of Columbia on July 4 (Wilkinson), and a **Chuck-will's-widow** was found at Whitaker Wildlife Management Area in Cecil County on July 7 (Gary Griffith). A Chuck was still singing nightly at St. Michaels on July 23 (Reese). Gerald Einem observed **Chimney Swifts** disappearing into a chimney-like structure at the Columbia Mall, and Martha Chestem tallied an amazing 248 swifts there on July 25. A female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was observed building a nest 45 to 50 feet up a Sycamore tree in Howard County on June 14 (Ott, Solem). Six **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Black Hill Park, Montgomery County on July 3 (Norm Saunders, Robert Norton). Connie Skipper reported 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** near a nest hole containing a young Downy peering out and begging for food in Garrett County on June 17.

Swallows, Jays, Nuthatches. Large counts of **Purple Martins** were 500 at Chestertown and 300 at Remington Farms on July 19 (Grubers), and over 130 at Point Lookout on July 28 (Craig). **Tree Swallows** included 500 at Chestertown on July 24 (Grubers), and about 250 at Lilypons on July 31 (Ringler). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** included 200 at Fairlee on July 16 (Grubers), 1 at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead), and 300 at Chestertown on July 24 (Grubers). There were 350 **Bank Swallows** at Fairlee on July 16 (Grubers), and about 15 **Cliff Swallow** nests were discovered at a shopping center in Eldersburg this summer (Ringler). Paulus reported 55 **Cliff Swallows** at North Branch on July 9, and the Grubers tallied about 200 **Barn Swallows** at Fairlee on July 16. Bob Ringler noted 2 migrating **Blue Jays** over Baltimore on June 18, and Paul Pisano found a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Courthouse Point WMA, Cecil County on July 5. Stauffer Miller checked off another Red-breasted west of Thurmont on July 31. Jared Parks found at least 3 pairs of **White-breasted Nuthatches** nesting at a golf course near Chestertown.

Winter Wren, Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. In Garrett County, Connie Skipper heard a **Winter Wren** singing near Spring Lick Road on June 15 and June 18 and another off Lost Land Road on July 31. She also heard a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** singing at Bittinger on June 1 and 5. Richard and Randy Crook observed a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** feeding young in a nest at Daniels on May 31.

Thrushes, Waxwings, Shrikes. The only **Veery** banded at Eastern Neck was on July 30 and the first **Wood Thrush** was banded there on July 21. Nuttle found 2 **Cedar Waxwing** nests in Denton on June 24. A pair of **Loggerhead Shrikes** continued at Lilypons throughout the season.

Warblers. Randy and Richard Crook observed a **Northern Parula** feeding young at a nest at Daniels on May 31. Three **Yellow Warblers** were banded at Eastern Neck, all on July 21, and an early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was banded there, on July 18. A late **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Denton on June 2 (Nuttle), and a **Pine Warbler** was singing at Bittinger on June 1 (Skipper). A late migrant **Blackpoll Warbler** was at South Mountain, Washington County on June 10 (John Flowers). Reese found an **American Redstart** between Leonardtown and Hollywood on June 16, and an early fall migrant was banded at Eastern Neck on July 31. An active nest record for the **Prothonotary Warbler** was established for Howard County at Daniels; a male was

heard and seen by several birders from April 30 throughout May, and a pair was discovered feeding young in a nesting cavity by Bockstie and Probst on June 11. An **Ovenbird** with three young was observed at Leonardtown on June 11 (Reese), one was banded at Eastern Neck on July 18, where the first **Northern Waterthrush** was banded on July 30, and a **Louisiana Warbler** was banded on July 18. Four eggs were seen in a **Kentucky Warbler** nest at Denton on the early date of May 24 (Fletcher).

Dickcissels, Sparrows. **Dickcissels** were found again in Frederick County with 1 along Cap Stine Road on June 17 and another at Renn Road on June 23 (S. Miller). Sam Dyke reported a possible hybrid **Clay-colored X Field Sparrow** singing a modified Clay-colored song, but resembling a Field Sparrow, at Pemberton Park in Salisbury from May 15 through July 16. A **Lark Sparrow** was reported in Queenstown on June 9 (Danny Poet). Stauffer Miller reported evidence of breeding **Savannah Sparrows** along Bollinger School Road near Emmitsburg, and Bob Ringler found a pair with 1 young, and heard another singing, near Keysville in Carroll County on June 19. Ringler also heard 1 near Detour on July 17, and 4 others near Lilypons on July 31. At least 1 **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing on Dan's Mountain, Allegany County throughout the summer (Susan Sires+). Connie Skipper located 2 Henslow's at Accident on June 1 and again on July 29. Others were 1 at Finzel on June 13 (David Stewart), June 24 (Jett), and July 4 (Mike Milton), and 1 at Deer Park, Garrett County on July 30 (Skipper). The high for **Seaside Sparrows** was 165 throughout Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead).

Bobolinks, Cowbirds, Siskins. A flock of at least 12 male and 4 female **Bobolinks** was near Keysville on June 19 (Ringler), 4 were at Hayden on July 26 (Grubers), and a large flock was near Emmitsburg on July 31 where there was evidence of breeding (S. Miller). Gary Griffith found breeding Bobolinks at Fair Hill Natural Resources Area, Cecil County on July 7. The Grubers counted 150 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at Remington Farms on July 24. On a much more positive note, Connie Skipper saw 4 **Pine Siskins** on a feeder at Bray Hill in Garrett County on June 9, and George Jett noted 1 flying over Cranesville Swamp on June 25.

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

May 21, 1994

The meeting was held during the 29th Annual Conference at Sandy Cove Conference Center, North East, Maryland. Bill Newman called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Cecil Chapter was brought in as a new chapter.

Awards were given to Paul and Linda Bystrak for their work on the conference. An award was also given to Connie Bockstie for designing the conference pin.

The Nominating Committee nominated the following people: Allan Haury, President; Robert Rineer, Vice President; Larry Fry, Treasurer; Sybil Williams, Secretary; and Will Tress, Executive Secretary. The nominations were seconded and voted in favor.

Thanks were given to records compiler Bob Ringler for his many years of service. A service award was given to Bill Newman, outgoing President.

Treasurer's Report. This year the MOS joined the Maryland Environmental Fund. \$10,000 has been sent to FUNDAECO in Guatemala for land purchase. Grants have been prefunded. The Wanuga fund must be acted on this year. The Raffle brought in \$1,346 and the Silent Auction brought in \$1,450.

Bylaws Committee. Two sets of changes are to be considered in the following year.

Conference Committee. The 50th Annual Conference will be held in Emmitsburg at Mount St. Mary's College the weekend of June 24, 1995. Each Chapter will have a display. There will be a new patch and pin design contest with a closing date of Dec. 31, 1994.

Education Committee. Surveys were sent out after the last annual meeting, and the results were reported at Board of Directors' meetings. An MOS "Clearing House" was adopted as well as an "Adopt a Group" program, which is part of the MOS "Outreach Program." \$200 would be available to each chapter for educational purposes. A total budget of \$4,000 per year would come from an endowment.

Library Committee. Back issues of *Maryland Birdlife* will be kept at Cylburn. This past year the committee has acquired *The Birds of North America* and *Handbook of Birds of the World*. They will be housed in Pratt Library in Baltimore. There will be a display at Pratt in honor of the 50th anniversary of MOS.

Long Range Planning Committee. The survey was completed and a report is due out next year.

Research Committee. Two research grants were awarded and three proposals have been received. The grant guidelines have been updated for greater availability.

Sanctuary Committee. Tum Suden Sanctuary was transferred to Harford County schools. Irish Grove was a new stove and windows; there was some vandalism and there were two work weekends. There was one work day at Carey Run replacing windows.

Scholarship Committee. Six scholarships were awarded this year and six will be awarded next year. The Kent County Chapter will sponsor an additional scholarship.

Atlas Committee. 125 species accounts have been proofed, and 75 have not yet been returned from the publisher. The project may be completed by the next conference.

Publications Committee. Publication of *Maryland Birdlife* is getting caught up. The Yellow Book is on hold until the AOU revises its sequence of species. The *Yellowthroat* needs calendars of coming events from the chapters.

Conservation Committee. There are three big issues at the federal level that need the support of MOS: the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Environmental Fund of Maryland needs volunteers.

More detailed annual committee reports are available; please see the secretary if interested. No reports were received from the Budget, Gifts, Investments, and Records Committees.

The meeting was concluded with a report by Marco Cerezo B. on conservation activities of FUNDAECO in Guatemala.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Williams, Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

This year's Conference Committee's work culminated in the extremely successful conference, which was hosted by the Harford County Chapter. The conference was held at the Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East, Maryland, during the weekend of May 20-22. For a change, the weather cooperated with us. The accommodations were much better than we had been accustomed to on college campuses, and the membership seemed to appreciate this even though the overall cost of the conference was higher than any in the past.

The conference was attended by nearly 400 persons. Every MOS chapter was represented. We also invited ornithological societies from neighboring states; not many non-members attended, but those who did added to the diversity of the conference.

Field trips were, as usual, a major portion of the conference. We had 49 field trips led by 65 volunteers. The species total for the conference weekend was 192.

Six scientific papers were presented on Saturday afternoon. These were well attended and strengthen our educational and scientific endeavors.

The silent auction and raffle were a great success, netting nearly \$3,000. The proceeds from these events have been donated to the FUNDAECO rain forest challenge.

Special attractions at this year's conference were our guest speakers from the Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Facility in Newark, Delaware. Tours were also given of their facility and we all learned more about how injured birds are helped to recovery. A demonstration of "educational birds" placed in a natural setting was presented by Bill Troutman of "Art in the Park." Bill Fax put on a demonstration of bird carvings. The Wild Bird Center from Columbia, Maryland, provided us with an exceptional display of optical equipment and other birding accessories for sale.

The final financial tally for the conference is not complete as of this writing. I am sure at this point that we will at least break even and should have some funds to go for next year. Committee members are Linda and Paul Bystrak and Larry and Jean Fry, all Conference Coordinators, John Malcolm, Joy Aso, Emily Joyce, and

Robert Rineer, Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The past year marked a turning point in our nation's environmental protection and conservation programs. Two landmark federal laws are up for re-authorization: the national Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. These acts are being worked up in Congress and deserve our wholehearted support. All members are urged to contact their U.S. Congressional representatives and senators and urge their reenactment.

Another very important federal conservation program is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This program has been woefully under-funded in recent years, even though it produces over \$900 million per year for protection of natural resources. A coalition is forming in Maryland to renew and strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund. MOS will join this effort.

On the state level, MOS formally joined the Environmental Fund, a voluntary check-off fund for employee contributions. The Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, our state's voluntary income tax refund check-off, was reauthorized. Program Open Space was granted more funding under the "lift- the-cap" formula and purchased many valuable habitat areas throughout Maryland.

The 1994 legislative season was a mixed bag. A number of bills that would have weakened existing statewide conservation laws failed, but environmental initiatives such as the grant of "standing" to environmental groups, creation of a Forest Advisory Committee, and recycling and solid waste bills all died. The State Department of Natural Resources began a commitment to the conservation of neotropical migrant land birds by the creation of a committee to implement the Partners in Flight program.

A number of local conservation issues have achieved state-wide prominence but are as yet unresolved. These include wetland destruction, golf course construction, and preservation of the Belt Woods in Prince George's County.

All chapters are urged to designate a conservation committee representative if you have not done so. Contact your senators and representative, preferably in writing, to express your support of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and restructuring and increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Also, in the upcoming statewide elections, become aware of important statewide conservation issues and find out positions. Express your support for conservation and habitat protection. Thanks for your help and interest during the past year.

Richard Dolesh, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
May 1, 1993 through April 30, 1994

Item	Budget	Actual
OPERATING FUND		
INCOME:		
Dues	20,000	19,806.00
Transfer from		
Sanctuary Endowment	620	630.00
Investment Income	1,500	692.84
Publications Income	1,000	806.00
Mail Permit Contribution	75	37.50
Membership Pins	25	60.00
Calendar Sales Tax		53.50
Miscellaneous		<u>20.00</u>
Total	23,420	22,105.84
EXPENSES:		
Publications Committee		
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE		
Printing	8,000	8,137.92
Postage	1,000	736.49
Labels		174.90
Miscellaneous	400	
YELLOWTHROAT		
Printing	5,000	5,490.56
Postage	1,000	1,409.24
Labels		254.75
Miscellaneous	<u>400</u>	
Total	15,600	16,203.86
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE:		
President's Expenses	100	
Vice President's Expenses	100	
Secretary's Expenses	75	
Treasurer's Expenses	50	
Executive Secretary	2,400	2,400.00
Postage	500	253.47
Bulk Mailing Permits	150	225.00
Membership List Database	600	407.25
Printing and Duplication	700	101.12
Office Supplies	500	7.49
Publicity and Awards	300	141.75
Affiliations	225	2,225.00
Liability Insurance	600	569.00
Calendar Sales Tax		18.52
Miscellaneous		262.30
Contingencies	<u>500</u>	
Totals	6,825	<u>6,610.90</u>

Item	Budget	Actual
COMMITTEE RELATED EXPENSES:		
Budget Committee	25	
Conservation Committee	300	
Education Committee	100	16.45
Library Committee	500	1,073.50
Conference Committee	1,000	262.50
Gifts Committee	100	
Long Range Planning Committee 50		
Nominating Committee	100	18.85
Records Committee	240	
Research Committee	100	8.75
Winter Bird Atlas	100	127.99
Contingencies	<u>200</u>	
Total	3,015	1,508.04
CONFERENCE		
1993 Conference Income		23,255.00
Expenses		19,906.55
1994 Conference Income		46,315.00
Expenses		5,352.04
OPERATING FUND — OTHER FUNDS		
Maryland Atlas		
Beginning Balance		2,733.27
Expenses		<u>144.00</u>
Ending Balance		2,589.27
Atlas—Chesapeake Bay Trust		
Beginning Balance		6,278.44
Expenses		<u>1,138.91</u>
Ending Balance		5,139.53
Rain Forest Challenge—FUNDAECO		
93/94 Income		7,335.30
Total sent to FUNDAECO		10,128.61
MOS Brochures		
Beginning Balance		2,979.26
Expenses		<u>100.00</u>
Ending Balance		2,879.26
1995 MOS Conference		3,000.00
Index, <i>Maryland Birdlife</i>		
Beginning Balance		1,635.00
Transfer from Unassigned		<u>4,000.00</u>
Total		5,635.00
Expenses		<u>1,635.00</u>
Ending Balance		4,000.00

Item	Budget	Actual
SANCTUARY FUND		
INCOME:		
Div/Int	3,180	3,036.19
Use Fees		
1,400	1,307.00	
Sanctuary Maint. Fund		87.30
Signs	<u>300</u>	<u>36.00</u>
Total	6,700	4,466.49
EXPENSES:		
IRISH GROVE:		
Mowing	850	694.00
Marion VFD	50	50.00
Utilities	450	395.81
Fuel	500	447.05
Taxes	300	513.43
Gas Stove		412.70
Miscellaneous		131.01
General Maintenance	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,158.58</u>
Total Irish Grove	4,150	3,808.58
TUM SUDEN:		
General Maintenance	500	3,531.43
Utilities	100	96.58
Fuel	<u>400</u>	<u>1,007.46</u>
Total tum Suden	1,000	4,635.47
CAREY RUN:		
Replacement Windows		729.75
Repairs and Maintenance		355.24
Mowing		350.00
Work Day Meal		111.15
Utilities		140.44
Postage		<u>3.77</u>
Total Carey Run		1,690.35
Liability Insurance	800	700.00
Contingencies	<u>2,000</u>	
Total Sanct. Expenses	6,950	10,834.40

SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Dividends	3,000	3,681.19
Contributions	800	546.36
Life Membership	<u>400</u>	<u>400.00</u>
Total	4,200	4,627.55
EXPENSES:		
Bond Maint.		15.00
Transfer to Operating Fund	620	630.00
Transfer to Sanctuary Fund	<u>2,380</u>	<u>3,036.19</u>
Total	3,000	3,681.19

Item	Budget	Actual
SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE FUND		
Balance		27,174.92
INCOME:		
Div/Int		<u>797.79</u>
Balance		27,972.71
EXPENSES:		
Irish Grove		1,658.58
tum Suden		2,719.91
Carey Run Windows		<u>729.75</u>
Total Maint. Expenses		<u>5,108.24</u>
Balance		22,864.47

SANCTUARY PURCHASE FUND (WANUGA)

INVESTMENT INCOME	
Div/Int	2,757.22

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Contributions	300	379.11
Div/Int	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,547.39 *</u>
Total	3,300	3,926.50

* Amount available for Summer 1995 MOS Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

INCOME:		
Summer 1993 Income:		
Div/Int		3,500
World Nature Association		650
Bourne Scholarship		600
Summer 1994 Income:		
Transfer from Unassigned		2,535
World Nature Association		<u>695</u>
Total Income		7,980

EXPENSES:		
Summer 1993 Expenses:		
MOS Scholarships		3,500
Crowder Scholarship		650
Bourne Scholarship		600
Summer 1994 Expenses:		
MOS Scholarships		3,185
Crowder Scholarship		<u>695</u>
Total Scholarships		8,630

Item	Budget	Actual
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RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:

Contributions	100	
Div/Int	2,400	2,106.41**

**Amount available for 1994/95 Research Grants

RESEARCH FUND

INCOME:

Transfer from Unassigned		2,205.00
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EXPENSES:

Grants	2,300	2,205.00
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FUTURE ATLAS ACCOUNT

INCOME:

Div/Int		1,000.09
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UNASSIGNED BEQUESTS

Beginning Balance		63,214.44
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Assigned to Research Grants		2,205.00
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Assigned to Scholarships		2,535.00
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Assigned to library—Book Purchase	1,073.50	
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Assigned to Index <i>Maryland Birdlife</i>	<u>4,000.00</u>	
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Total Assigned Funds		<u>9,813.50</u>
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Balance		53,400.94
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Div/Int		<u>1,387.77</u>
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Ending Balance		54,788.71
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YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

Beginning Balance		30,902.28
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Div/Int		<u>973.02</u>
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Ending Balance		31,875.30
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YELLOWBOOK UPDATE FUND

Balance		11,000.00
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The first official meeting of the Education Committee was at last year's annual meeting in Frostburg. Four members attended the meeting and it was agreed that a statewide survey would be sent to every chapter before the group would meet again. The purpose of the survey was to determine what was already being done by the various MOS chapters to encourage ornithology education, and what the membership thought needed to be done in the future. The 18 question surveys were not returned to the committee until the end of September.

The first meeting following the return of the surveys was on October 16 at Gloria Meade's home in Montgomery County. Seven members attended. Half of the survey results were summarized. The January meeting was cancelled because of snow, but we met at Cylburn Mansion a few weeks later. The second half of the survey was reviewed, and the "clearing house" and "adopt a group" were proposed.

The third meeting took place on April 9 at Cylburn Mansion. Seven members of the Education Committee met from noon until 3 p.m. Joy Wheeler was our hostess. Others in attendance included: Cameron Lewis from Hagerstown, Gloria Meade from the Montgomery Chapter, Helen Meleney from the Patuxent Chapter, Dave Kubitsky from the Howard Chapter, Celeste Bunting from Snow Hill, and Linda Bystrak from Cecil County. The final draft of the MOS "Clearinghouse" form was accepted by the committee. Then the MOS "Adopt a Group" program was added to the MOS "Outreach Program" which was also reviewed and accepted. Finally, the Education Committee budget request was discussed, and it was agreed that we should ask for at least \$200 for each chapter to use. We would also ask for \$100 for operating expenses and \$800 to sponsor ornithology education activities on a statewide level. This would bring our total budget request to \$4,100.

The committee realizes that a budget request of \$4,000 every year would deplete our endowment in less than 8 years. However, we have not ruled out the possibility of fund raisers, grants, or other gifts to replenish our funds. If not, then we will have at least made a statewide effort to enhance ornithology education in Maryland for 7 or 8 years! Based upon the survey results for question one, that is, what the majority of the respondents would like us to do, **spend the principal!**

Because of insufficient time at the Annual Meeting, our proposed long range goals, which include adoption of an MOS Outreach Program, Clearinghouse, and various other proposals will not be presented to the Executive Board for approval until the September meeting.

Linda Bystrak, Chairperson

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The membership survey, mentioned in last year's report by this committee, was published in the September-October 1993 issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. By early 1994, almost 170 replies had been received. Brief preliminary findings were given to the state board at their March meeting. Complete results should be available later this year. Our thanks to the many concerned and loyal members who not only completed the questionnaire but who took the time to provide additional comments and suggestions. Those were particularly useful. This committee continues to be involved in all major ideas and plans for the society.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairperson

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

1993

Sanctuary Committee activities involved increasing the size of one sanctuary while preparing to eliminate another. Irish Grove Sanctuary was increased by the Eastern Shore Land Trust, which turned over a tract of 148 acres of woodlands in Somerset County that was adjacent to Irish Grove Sanctuary. This property was the gift of Mrs. Virginia Simmons of Rockville, Maryland.

Most of the paper work was done for transferring the tum Suden Sanctuary to the Harford County School System. This transfer was scheduled to occur at the end of June 1993.

The four workdays were carried out with many hardworking volunteers coming and helping with the maintenance of our sanctuaries. The success of these workdays rests with these wonderful volunteers and we thank them for coming out. The four workdays were as follows:

The MILL CREEK SANCTUARY workday was held on 17 October 1993. Activities included marking boundaries, clearing the parking lot, and trail maintenance.

The CAREY RUN SANCTUARY workday was on 24 April. The main project was to replace five of the windows in the house; the new windows have plastic sashes and will need little maintenance. Other jobs were the usual house cleaning, pruning trails, and scraping flaking paint off the front porch and steps.

At the IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY fall workday weekend on 7-8 November, the main project was putting the banding station back on its foundation; this last project completes the cleanup from the 1990 storm. Other jobs included trail maintenance and the usual house cleaning.

The spring work weekend at IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY was held on 3-4 April. The main project was to start cutting a train to the north end of the property from Rumbly Point Road, along the edge of the new property. We also cut down the dead tree beside the tool shed, put a new bridge at the beginning of the Rail Trail, pruned shrubbery around the house, and performed the usual house cleaning.

1994

tum Suden Sanctuary: The transfer of tum Suden Sanctuary to the Harford County School System was completed in March of 1994 after a great deal of work by the Harford Chapter and members of the Sanctuary Committee. Two official work days were held. The first was a big "clean up & clear out" day at which twenty volunteers did an incredible amount of work. This was followed by work done under contract for essential repair to the house. The second workday had about ten volunteers to do the first coat of paint in the interior of the house. Members of the Harford Chapter did the second coat of paint the following week. The Harford Chapter, especially Jean and Larry Fry, deserve a special "thank you" for all their work. The Harford County School System is using tum Suden as part of the Harford Glen Nature complex. They plan to use the house for housing interns from Towson State University.

Irish Grove Sanctuary: Much has been happening at Irish Grove:

A new cook stove was put in the kitchen and most of the old broken storm windows were replaced.

The house was illegally entered at least twice and items removed.

The water pump disappeared over the winter and had to be replaced.

The water pipes all froze during the severe cold weather. All new pipes have been installed by a plumber from Crisfield. This plumber will also be doing the winterizing of the plumbing and we hope that we will not have frozen pipes again.

Two workday weekends were held. Twenty-one volunteers participated in the fall workday on Nov. 6-7, 1993. More bridges were built on the trail system as well as pruning and house cleaning. The Wicomico Chapter provided their usual turkey dinner for the workers. Ten volunteers came to the spring workday on Apr. 9-10, 1994. The main project was removal of two old trees than had fallen behind the propane tank and the spring pruning around the house. Then everyone walked the South Marsh Trail and enjoyed good birding while doing some trail maintenance.

Carey Run Sanctuary: About 20 volunteers participated in the annual workday weekend of April 30 and May 1, 1994. The last five replacement windows were installed. All windows at Carey Run are now fully functional! The Allegany Chapter provided a chicken dinner for the workers, which was enjoyed before the rains came.

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who come out and help make our sanctuaries a pleasant place to visit. I hope all of you will make an effort to visit our sanctuaries and enjoy the beauty, the peace, and the quiet of these lovely places.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Nineteen applications were received this year, and six scholarships were awarded. One scholarship was held back this year because of low interest yield to the scholarship fund investments. An ornithology scholarship was cut because we get more ecology applications than ornithology applications.

Winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship was Celeste F. Bunting, Teacher from Worcester County. She was given permission to attend The Camp of the West instead of Maine because of her qualifications and scheduling problems.

Winners of the Helen Miller Scholarships were Michele A. Wright, Park Naturalist for Howard County, Kathleen Buppert, Education Coordinator for The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Baltimore County, and Lisa Shore, Park Ranger for Anne Arundel County.

Penny Gow Zimring, Howard County Teacher, won the Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship, and Dennis Cloutier, Park Ranger for Anne Arundel County, won the Edith Bourne Memorial Scholarship.

The Kent County Chapter will sponsor a scholarship next year. The money available, interest from a trust, has been used for bird banding activities, but their bander had an accident and can no longer do it. However, if he should recover sufficiently, the funds may be reverted back to banding in future years. The award will be called the Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship, should be administered by the MOS Scholarship Committee, and will be used at an Audubon camp in the United States for either ecology or ornithology. Stipulations made by the Kent County trustees are that (1) first priority be given to applicants from the Eastern Shore, should they qualify, and (2) that upon completion of camp the recipient submit a report, either written or oral, to the trustees.

Four of our scholarship winners came to the Convention. Two stayed for the Annual Meeting and were introduced. A scholarship Committee Display Table was set up, which had photographs and reports from former scholarship recipients on exhibition. Our current winners gathered there and were introduced to their sponsors, former winners, and MOS officers.

Committee members: Charlotte Folk, Garrett; Mrs. Richard Heise, Anne Arundel; Marian Mudd, Montgomery; Marian Glass Wilson, Baltimore; Margaret Duncan-Snow, Kent; and

Isa Sieracki, Chairperson

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

The Anne Arundel Bird Club had a very successful year. We had eight monthly meetings, which were well attended with many guests. Some of our topics included Goshawks by David Brinker, Waterfowl of the Chesapeake by Doug Forsell, the Great Basin Desert by Dr. Robert Trever, Bald Eagles in Maryland by Glenn Therres, and Birds in Decline by Rick Blom. Our annual Robert E. Heise, Jr. Wildlife Program, held in the Blue Heron Room of Quiet Waters Park, was by Chan Robbins on Maryland Birds. It was very well attended and the funds raised will go to the Scholarship Fund and the Sanctuary Fund.

Our membership this year is approximately 160. We have had a number of members move away, but we are also attracting new members. We also have had a number of junior members join recently. Most new members learn about our club from the *Pennysaver*, a weekly advertisement magazine.

We conducted 42 field trips this year. Each month we try to have a half day trip and a full day trip. We also had a number of overnight trips like our winter weekend trip to the coast. We conducted two owling trips, and we will be looking for Black Rails later this summer. Trips were well attended and we had many guests on the trips. We also conducted two extended field trips: one to Florida in April and one to Oregon in August. We participated in work weekends at Irish Grove and Carey Run. We also had two club picnics hosted at the Bakers and Bowie/Lamberts homes. Some of the birds seen on our trips include Le Conte's Sparrow, Goshawk, Harlequin Duck, Brown Noddy, and Northern Pygmy-Owl. (I bet the AABC has the largest club year total list for any club in the MOS.)

Members actively participated in the May Count and the Annapolis Christmas Count. The tally-up for the Christmas Count was held in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, courtesy of Michael Murdock, Park Superintendent. The club co-sponsored bird walks with Sandy Point State Park and Quiet Waters Park.

Our conservation chairman, Eileen McLellan, kept members informed on local and national issues. Al Haury and Peter Hanan constructed 50 bluebird boxes, which were sold to club members. Profits were donated to AABC. Materials were donated from Sinclair Supply Company in Annapolis and Hanan and Lerner Fine Woodworking Inc. in Capitol Heights. We also constructed a folding display board to display MOS and AABC information at our meetings, and it was also used at the Quiet Waters Park Earth Day celebration. Al Haury, Peter Hanan, and many other members helped with two bird seed sales conducted by Quiet Waters Park. The AABC shared in the profits.

The meeting location for our field trips was changed because of construction at Annapolis Mall. We now meet at the BG&E/Sears parking lot on Riva Road when we are heading west and at Bushes Restaurant on Route 50 when we are heading east. We also have a new look to our Newsletter, which is now composed on the computer by Newsletter Editor, Dotty Mumford. I would also like to thank Steven Hult for his help in redesigning our Newsletter. Peter Hanan, Al Haury, Steven Hult, and Sue Ricciardi are starting work on a birding guide to Anne Arundel County.

Peter Hanan, President

CAROLINE COUNTY CHAPTER

The 1993-94 officers were Debby Bennett, President; Wilbur Rittenhouse, Vice President; Marianne Nuttle, Secretary; and Mark Grande, Treasurer. Monthly meetings were held at 7:30 p.m. in the Caroline County Public Library's meeting room in Denton the third Friday of September through May (except December). Steve Westre coordinated the Christmas Count and Wilbur Rittenhouse the May Count.

Programs included Basic Birding Tips (Les Coble); Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Another Gem in Our Own Backyard (Bill Giese); Cypress Swamps of the Eastern Shore (Dr. Robert Trever); Colonial Waterbirds (Dave Brinker); Seabirds of Newfoundland (Ellen Lawler); A Spring Visit to Crane Creek State Park, Ohio (Jan Reese and L. T. Short); and a special visit from Jay Abercrombie, author of *"Walks and Rambles on the Delmarva Peninsula: A Guide for Hikers and Naturalists."*

For the first time ever, we had to cancel our January meeting because of inclement weather; the speaker was rescheduled for May. In addition to the regular programs, the club offered a bird walk at the Adkins Arboretum in September and a birding trip to Chincoteague in November. We also had two cleanup days at the Pelot Sanctuary.

We lost Roberta Fletcher this year. She died at her home on August 26, 1994. Roberta and her husband Jerry were charter members of our Chapter. Roberta was an excellent birder, teacher, and record keeper. Many of her prize pupils are now top-notch birders in the Chapter.

Debby Bennett, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

We have had a wonderful year with 75 members, most of whom are very active in either attending our meetings or taking our field trips. We had our first meeting in September with Al Geis telling all about the proper feed for the various type feeders (birds, that is), followed in October by Peter Payne on the declining Bobwhite in Maryland. Laurie MacIvor spoke about the Loggerhead Shrike and its decline in the northeast, and Armas Hill took us to Costa Rica after our Christmas Dinner meeting. Jim Stasz taught us all about gulls in January, just in time for the annual gull count, and Erika Wilson crossed the Potomac to take us to Midway and the goonies and their kindred. March was snowed out for the second year in a row, but April found us in the Falkland Islands with Don Messersmith. Our annual picnic was held again at the home of Tinker and Pat Williamson in Braddock Heights.

We had seven trips in the county and four out of the county plus our Catoctin Christmas Count and the May Count. We continued with our local hot line/phone tree and welcome all who bird in our county to let us know of rarities they spot here. Anyone can place a bird on the line.

"A Guide to Bird Finding in Frederick County, Maryland," written by Stauffer Miller who has left us for Cape Cod, is selling much better than we had hoped. We have printed over 300 copies and have been able to donate the proceeds to FUNDAECO, Quail Unlimited, and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. *Flight Lines*, our Newsletter, started this fall with vol. 1, no. 1. It is our effort to keep all abreast of birding in our area and other topics of interest.

Helen Horrocks, President

HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford County Chapter opened its 45th year with its annual picnic at the 4-H Camp at Rocks State Park. Again Tom Congersky and his assistants provided pit beef plus a wonderful spread of side dishes. Fifty-seven persons attended.

Chapter members John and Linda Ireland opened Wild Bird Marketplace in the Bel Air Town Plaza in August and offered a 10% discount to chapter members.

The Chapter hosted the MOS state board meeting in September at Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East so other Board members could see the facilities for the MOS Conference, which Harford Chapter hosted in May 1994. Work progressed on conference planning as the year went by. Linda and Paul Bystrak served as co-chairpersons, Jean Fry wrote the registration brochure, and Mark Johnson provided the artwork. Tom Congersky and several assistants mailed the registration brochures, Larry Fry handled the registration and room assignments, Randy Robertson organized the raffle, and Dave and Macrina Seitz prepared the registration packets and supervised the registration process. Over 400 persons attended the Conference, which would not have been possible without all the volunteer efforts of many Chapter members.

Birding courses were again offered at Harford Community College. Dennis Kirkwood taught a weekend course called "A Birding Tour of Wildlife Refuges of the South Jersey Coast," and Dave Webb taught "The Hobby of Birdwatching" on seven

Saturday mornings in both the fall and spring semester. Bill Pfingsten got input from Gary Griffith to compile the Cecil County Checklist, which was printed in March. And Gary Griffith organized a Cecil County Chapter of MOS in the spring. Work continued on the Birdwatching in Harford County brochure. Newsletter banner designs were solicited to change the appearance and format of the newsletter. Bill McIntosh started updating the Chapter history from 1987 to 1994.

Conowingo Visitors' Center at the Conowingo Dam, operated by the Philadelphia Electric Company, continued to offer Owl Prowls, Eagle watches, Bird Identification Courses, and nature hikes. Members June Vaughn and Beth Olsen, who are employed there, are instrumental in keeping these programs active. The second annual nesting box workshop was held in February at the Conowingo Visitors' Center in cooperation with Philadelphia Electric Company.

Les Eastman reactivated the telephone tree and one of the first birds reported was the Whiskered Tern in Delaware in August, the first record for North America.

Field trips were held at White Clay Creek Preserve in Delaware, Gunpowder Delta (canoe trip), C & D Canal, Merkle Wildlife Management Area with pontoon boat trip at Patuxent River Park, Waggoner's Gap near Carlisle, Chincoteague, Broad Creek Boy Scout Camp, Cape Henlopen, Conowingo Dam, Elkton landfill, Bradenbaugh Flats, Lilypons, Loch Raven reservoir, Edgewood area of APG, Fair Hill Nature Center, Hughes Hollow, Susquehanna State Park, and Delaware Bay. Several night watches were held, one for "whips and hoots," three nights for American Woodcocks, and three for the Bel Air goatsuckers. Nine warbler walks, four of which were competitive, were held in April and May. A very harsh winter with lots of snow and ice brought several unusual birds to the area.

Fifty-three birders located 93 species on the 22nd annual Rock Run Christmas Count. A Glaucous Gull was a new species for this count.

Speakers for two of the dinner meetings were Dr. Robert Trever of Easton, "The Great Basin Desert," and Dave Brinker, "Saw-whet Owl Studies in Maryland." The January meeting was postponed twice because of weather and then cancelled. The program of "pot luck" bird slides of members proven to be diverse, beautiful, and highly entertaining.

At the August 1992 MOS Conference in Salisbury it had been voted to donate MOS's tum Suden Sanctuary to the Harford County Board of Education since the property adjoins Harford Glen, the county environmental education center. A large project for the Chapter this year was clearing out, cleaning, and painting the interior. Two work days were held in September and October to clear vegetation and remove two tons of trash and paint. Other repairs such as broken windows, water pump and filtration system were completed during the year until the property was finally deeded to the Harford County Board of Education in March. Plans for the property include having an internship with Towson State University.

A donation of \$100 was given to Eden Mill Nature Center to help buy a new canoe rack. A donation of \$100 was again given to the local Envirothon which occurs at Harford Glen. Also \$75 was given to FUNDAECO, a rain forest project in Guatemala.

Concern about disruption of Least Tern nests on Fishing Battery Island, near the mouth of the Susquehanna River, was raised by Dave Brinker from the Department of Natural Resources. Signs and fences have been torn down. Both human and canine footprints and piles of trash indicate human visitation, which has disrupted the nests. Letters were written to marinas, and newspapers responded with editorials.

The following awards for the previous year were given: Rookie of the Year, Gary Griffith; Listers of the Year, Dave Webb with 208 species in Harford County and Gary Griffith with 166 species in Cecil County; Birds of the Year, Painted Bunting at the home of Glen and Barbara Snyder, Rufous Hummingbird at the home of George and Dorothy McDaniel; and Distinguished Service, Bill Pfingsten for work in preparing checklists of birds for Harford and Cecil counties. We again offered a free junior membership to each high school in the county; we received four memberships this way.

We survived hosting the 1994 conference! It was a good year!

Jean Fry, President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

Jane Geuder and her committee planned a full schedule of interesting programs for the nine monthly meetings. Those evenings were made more lively by the presence of the club bookstore managed by Michele Wright, a hospitality table overseen by Maud Banks, and frequent special displays created by Martha Chestem. Two announcement boards featured coming field trips and highlights of those run in the preceding month. A table of free magazines, articles, brochures, etc., encouraged members to browse and to recycle material.

The club Newsletter provided timely information to the membership. Editor Susan Setterberg solicited special material from traveling birders and revived a column spotlighting board members. A summary of seasonal bird sightings is now a regular feature.

Bonnie Ott continued to plan an extensive array of field trips. She balanced trips to local "hot spots" with searches for specific types of birds such as waterfowl, hawks, and sparrows. Weekday walks during migration proved popular. Bonnie also volunteered to help individuals locate desired county birds by maintaining a master "want" list.

Most heartening this year was the success of the Publicity Committee, headed by Connie Bockstie, whose efforts generated publicity from previously untapped sources. Displays at the Howard County Garden Festival and the Soil Conservation Service Field Day in April and the Howard County Fair in August, under Mike McClure's direction, provided useful exposure. Martha Chestem updated and added to the chapter's displays for these events. Fifteen educational presentations by eight members were made to school classes, retirees, and other groups using the club's mounted specimens or slide programs.

Conservation emphasis focused on active support of the renewal of the federal Endangered Species Act. Chairman Bob Solem also testified for the club before the County Council requesting additional funding for wetland mitigation at Fort Hill Park. Numerous chapter members continued active field work with participation in the Triadelphia Christmas Count, Midwinter Count, and May Count. Seasonal migration records were compiled by Joanne Solem from data submitted by several dozen people. Bird checklists for major parks and open space continue to be compiled under Jane Farrell's direction. The Rockburn Branch Park checklist should be available later this year. Members are also working with the Howard County Conservancy surveying the birds, plants, and butterflies at Mt. Pleasant, a 225-acre farm.

This marked the fifteenth year of the club's twice yearly seed sales under the leadership of Eileen Clegg. From proceeds of recent sales, the chapter donated \$2,500 to Bladen Mountains Nature Reserve in Belize and the same amount to Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve in Guatemala for which MOS was raising funds.

Mark Wallace, who heads the chapter's Boost Bluebirds project, was recognized in 1993 by the North American Bluebird Society with one of six national awards given for excellence in bluebird conservation. The success of the club's county-wide program, which annually fledges at least 1500 bluebirds, is tribute not only to Mark's enthusiasm, Knowledge, and hard work but to the cooperation of the almost 300 committee individuals who monitor boxes or allow boxes to be placed on their land. The chapter's cavity nester efforts also continued with Bluebirds in the Parks, jointly sponsored with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks under Bill Eckert.

The fifteenth annual list of all bird species seen in the county was again compiled by Jane Farrell. The year's total was 222 plus five sent to the Maryland/DC Records Committee (MDDCRC). The Rare Bird Alert, under Bea Newkirk's direction, was efficient in providing an opportunity for numerous birders to see the county's first Eared Grebe, which appeared on Centennial Lake in April. Gerald Einem continued to census a breeding bird plot in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Martha Chestem and Dave Harvey were chapter representatives at the first statewide Partners in Flight meeting hosted by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

For the second time, chapter member Connie Bockstie won the MOS convention pin competition—this time with a Northern Saw-whet Owl design. Michele Wright and Penny Gow Zimring were each awarded an MOS scholarship. David Holmes was elected to the MDDCRC.

Under the direction of Tom Strikwerda and Martha Chestem, this chapter continued to be responsible for mailing Maryland Birdlife. The chapter was host to a state MOS board meeting in December.

The Howard County Bird Checklist was published in early 1994 covering sightings for the last 38 years. Prepared by Joanne Solem, David Holmes, and Martha Chestem, it listed the breeding status for local species and included a code to help birders determine the amount of effort or luck required to see a species. An updated Howard County Plant List by Bob Solem was also published.

After more than a year's preparation, the board completed work on a welcome packet. These were mailed in April to all individuals who had become members of the chapter within the past three years. From now on, they will be sent to new members at the time they join. Each packet includes a welcome from the president, the most recent chapter Newsletter, a membership directory, a membership card, and an MOS decal. An information sheet lists current officers, major chapter projects and publications, special resources, and a brief list of recommended references. The final project initiated by the board this year is a Fall Migration Count, which is planned for a Saturday in September. It will be co-coordinated by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat.

Chapter members have spent the year actively chronicling the county's birdlife (along with some other aspects of its natural history). We look forward to continuing this same intense involvement in the coming year.

Joanne K. Solem, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

The Jug Bay Chapter's membership has increased to 47 members. Regular activities include monthly meetings and at least one field trip each month. During the past year the members participated in the Christmas Count and May Count. The Chapter manned display booths at the Patuxent Wildlife Art Show and the Prince George's County Earth Fest. Jug Bay also participated in Project Tanager.

Wally Stephens, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent Chapter, with 69 members, sponsored seven educational programs, two field trips, two feeder watches, an annual picnic, and participated in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the midwinter bird count, and the May count.

We regret to report that the bird banding station that has been operated by one of our members, Jim Gruber, has had to be discontinued because of a physical disability Jim acquired as result of a boating accident. At our annual dinner meeting in April the Chapter expressed its appreciation to Jim for sharing his knowledge gained at the banding station, by presenting him with a painting by one of our artistic members, Peggy Blair.

One of our charter members, Helen Gibson, is compiling historical information in preparation for the 50th anniversary of MOS.

The Trustees of the Gibson-Mendinhall Trust, a Trust that was established from Kent Chapter funds in 1987, have agreed to sponsor an annual scholarship to be awarded by the State Society scholarship committee.

Stephen B. Hitchner, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

A major highlight of the 1993-94 season was the establishment of the Carl Carlson Fund. the Fund will be used to promote birdwatching and foster the study of ornithology in Montgomery County, especially among children and young people. It was named in memory of one of our founding Chapter members at the suggestion of another founding member, Sarah Sugar Baker, whose generous donation sparked the formation of the Fund. One of the first projects to be supported by the Fund will be a slide show of Montgomery County birds aimed at school children and youth groups.

Other major highlights were the excellent speakers at our monthly meetings. In September, Chapter members Claudia Wilds and Erika Wilson showed us captivating pictures of the birds of Midway Island, which is closing as a U.S. Naval Air Station and becoming a wildlife refuge. (Claudia visited Midway as part of her research into gulls and terns of the world, which will eventually result in a book about this bird family.) In October we were energized and inspired by Peter Stangel's motivating talk on the program "Partners in Flight," initiated in 1990 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds. Chapter member Bill Oberman spoke about birds of eastern Colorado in December and David Spector again impressed us with his scholarly presentation on "Naturalists and Novelists." In May, Chapter member Daphne Gemmill reviewed with pictures the new book, "Birdfinding in Forty National Forests and Grasslands," produced in cooperation between the U.S. Forest Service and the American Birding Association (ABA). Daphne, ABA Secretary (among the many offices she holds in ornithological organizations), was a major player in bringing the guide to publication.

Our February and April meetings were the season's lowlights: the February meeting had to be cancelled because of bad winter weather, and in April the featured speaker never showed up.

The Annual Social and election of officers was held in March at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Bethesda. One hundred members and guests enjoyed a turkey curry dinner and the ever-popular members' slide show.

Twenty-five field trips were made to such diverse places as Garrett County, Cape May, Delmarva Peninsula, the North Carolina Outer Banks, and Blackwater NWR. The Outer Banks trip was again a three-day affair in cooperations with the Cape Hatteras Bird Club. Among local trips were a canoe outing on the Potomac River and an evening search for bats and owls.

The Seneca Christmas Bird Count continued to be sponsored by our Chapter and many of our members participated in the D.C., Triadelphia Reservoir, and Sugarloaf Mountain counts, all coordinated by members of the Montgomery County Chapter.

Bill Kulp, Sr., President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from September through May (except December) in Building 011-A at the Agricultural Research Center on U.S. 1 in Beltsville. We had an interesting and varied program of meetings in 1993-94.

In September, Dr. Aelred Geist talked on bird feeding. In October, H. Kibbee Turner discussed leaving bird oases in developments. In November, Dr. James Duke spoke about medicinal herbs in tropical and temperate America.

In January, Phil Davis explained telescopes and binoculars, and in February, Greg Kearns took us on a Texas bird trip. In March, our member, Professor Leonard Lutwack discussed his new book, *Birds in Literature*. The book committee had copies for sale. In April, Paul Nistico took us Birding in South Florida and the Dry Tortugas.

The May meeting was Members Night, featuring Pamela Stephen on Florida birds; Luther Goldman on horseshoe crabs laying eggs and the migrating Sanderlings, Red Knots, and Purple Sandpipers that came to eat them; Tom Loomis on birds in Louisiana, Texas, and Churchill, Manitoba; and Paul Nistico on seabirds off California. Our special guest was Marco Cerezo, who described FUNDAECO's project of preserving rain forest at Cerro San Gil in eastern Guatemala and thanked MOS for raising \$11,000 to help with the purchase.

As usual, our members took part in the Christmas and May Counts.

Pamela Stephen, President

WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

Membership in the Wicomico Bird Club increased slightly with 31 single, 1 junior, and 22 household memberships. The club held eight meetings between September and May, including our annual dinner in March. Attendance at the meetings averaged about 35 people. Presentations at the meetings covered topics such as tundra swans, shorebird and warbler identification, the Natural Heritage Program, the Salisbury Zoo, and birding New Guinea.

We held 9 field trips including those to Chincoteague NWR, Bombay Hook NWR, Blackwater NWR, Deal Island WMA, Cape Henlopen State Park, and the Bay Bridge-Tunnel. A number of our members led field trips for the Ward Museum, Pemberton Park, and Furnacetown, and presented programs at Southern States in Salisbury and to the Caroline County MOS chapter. Wicomico Bird Club activities were featured in a segment of an Outdoors Maryland (MPT) program and on a local (WBOC) Outdoors Report.

Twenty members took part in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (Dec. 19) coordinated by Charles Vaughn. Charlie also coordinated the Crisfield Count; he and a few other club members also took part in the Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Ocean City Counts. Club members participated in the May Count and in the Fall Irish Grove workday. As in the past, Ruth Denit graciously supplied turkey for Irish Grove workers' midday meal. Ten club members attended the MOS conference at Sandy Cove.

Club member Celeste Bunting was the recipient of the Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship for 1994. During the year, the club and individual members wrote letters to public officials and attended local meetings on a number of conservation issues, concerning habitat preservation and wildlife conservation. The club currently has representatives on the Pemberton Park Board, the Maryland Partners in Flight Committee, and the MOS Education and Conservation committees.

At our May meeting, Valued Service Awards were given to Ruth Denit, Helen Farrand, Charles Vaughn, and Gail Vaughn.

Ellen Lawler, President

BOOK REVIEW

THE PATUXENT RIVER WILDRICE MARSH. Brooke Meanley. Published by the author, P.O. Box 87, Fishersville, VA 22939. 1992. Black & white illustrations by John W. Taylor. Photographs by the author.

A note from Brooke Meanley dated Jan. 8, 1993:

I published this little informal book for kindred spirits. It is my "Swan Song" or "Last Hurrah" (I think). I hope you find something of interest. I've been going to the Patuxent River wildrice marsh since the 1930's and will be going there next month.

I'm pleased to think that Mr. Meanley considers me a "kindred spirit." My visits to the Patuxent River wild rice marsh (I don't know why the author makes this into a compound word; my dictionaries make it two words) did not begin until the 1970's and are fewer in number and more limited in scope than his. They do include canoeing through some of the stands of wild rice near Huntingtown where MOS Junior Nature Camp met, so I can easily picture the habitat.

Mr. Meanley's work with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center led him to ascertain how much the birds used the wild rice for food by counting the number of rice grains in stomachs of Soras, other rails, Bobolinks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and various marsh ducks. His work extended from our Atlantic Flyway to the Mississippi Flyway, Stuttgart, Arkansas in particular. It must have been a tedious exercise, what with the smallness of the rice grains, the mosquitoes, and the depth of the mud over the more solid substrate. To have seen these marshes before the post-WWII development boom, and to have had the broad view that work on two major flyways opened up for him, must have provided an enviable source of wonderment to his life.

We can be grateful that Mr. Meanley has shared his findings with us over the years in his very readable books, many of which I have on my own bookshelves and which are on the bookshelves in our sanctuaries. This latest one, a very neatly put together soft bound volume with a John Taylor black and white sketch of a Sora on the front, is on the shelf in Cylburn's Bird Museum. (Mr. Meanley and his wife are listed as owners of Taylor's painting of the Sora, one of 39 paintings in Taylor's book, "Birds of the Chesapeake Bay").

—Joy Wheeler.

NEW JOURNAL

BIRD POPULATIONS, A Journal of Global Avian Biogeography

Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1346.
David F. DeSante, Editor. \$35.

The year 1993 saw the debut of this impressive annual international journal of dynamic avian biogeography. Current reports on major North American monitoring programs form the foundation of this journal. These are supplemented by original or reprinted reports on national monitoring programs from other parts of the world, especially Europe. Original and review papers on bird populations and ecological relationships and on field techniques also are accepted. All papers are in English, with abstracts in Spanish, French, and German.

Contents for 1993 include the Breeding Bird Survey Annual Summary for 1990-91 with 2-year and long-term continental changes for about 250 species; the second annual report of DeSante's continental MAPS program that uses constant effort banding stations to estimate nesting success and survival; the 1989-90 index report from the British Common Birds Census; the British Waterways Bird Survey report for 1990-91; British Constant Effort banding reports for 1989-90 and 1990-91; British Wintering Wader reports for 1990-91 and 1991-92; and research papers on population trends in Sandhill Cranes, breeding birds in early successional pine plantations in Texas, and the distribution and migration of Yellow-billed Loons.

I heartily recommend this journal to everyone who wishes to keep informed on the status of bird populations.—Ed.

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Active Membership (adults)	\$10.00 plus local chapter dues
Household	15.00 plus local chapter dues
Sustaining	25.00 plus local chapter dues
Life	400.00 (4 annual installments)
Junior (under 18 years)	5.00 plus local chapter dues

Cover: One of the most sought birds at Ocean City MOS Conventions. Purple Sandpiper photographed by Luther Goldman, 1994.



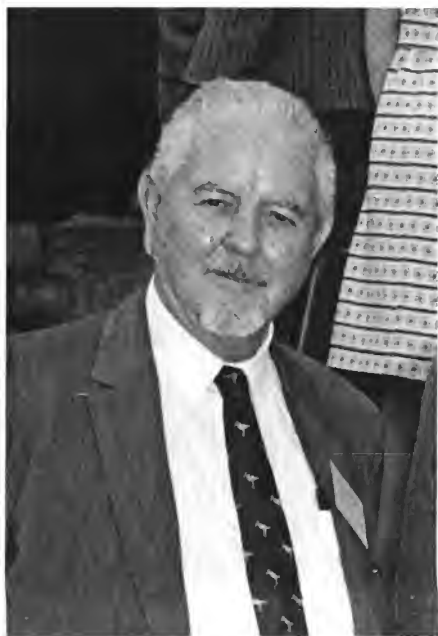
A TRIBUTE TO ORVILLE WRIGHT CROWDER, 1904-1974

DONALD H. MESSERSMITH

Orville W. Crowder was one of the founders and charter members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. He was the first elected Vice President when the Society was organized on 9 April 1945. The following year he was elected the second President of MOS and served in that office from 1946 to 1952. He made many other significant contributions to this Society and others in Maryland. His legacy lives on in the work of the World Nature Association which he also founded.

Orville Wright Crowder, whose cousin was the famous inventor of the airplane, was born on 24 March 1904 in Baltimore, Maryland, where he attended grade and high school as well as graduating from Baltimore College. A childhood interest in stamp collecting led to his operating a stamp business in Baltimore with his brother in the 1920's and 1930's. Philately was an interest that continued throughout his life. An interest in nature also began rather early along with an urge to travel.

His wanderings began with a trip to the western United States in the 1920's. Out of this trip grew his great interest in mountains, mountaineering, and hiking. He eventually climbed to the highest point in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. Pursuing these interests he founded the Mountain Club of Maryland in 1924 and served as its first President. Active in the early years of the Appalachian Trail Conference, in 1937 he became the third person to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia.



Orville Crowder from a group photo.
Date and photographer unknown.

Another deep interest was the C & O Canal. He served in various capacities in the Canal Level Walkers and the C & O Canal Association, and as co-author of Section 1, he helped Thomas F. Hahn in writing *Towpath Guide to the C & O Canal*. He gave much assistance to the American Youth Hostels Association when the Potomac area Council was establishing its chain of hostels along the canal. He also served as a member of the AYH's national board of directors.

Stemming from all this outdoor activity was Orville's avid interest in birds, wildflowers, astronomy, and other forms of natural history. A member of many natural history societies and very active in the Natural History Society of Maryland, he was a prime mover in reviving a dying bird club in Baltimore, in building it into the Maryland Ornithological Society, and personally founded several of its chapters throughout the state.

"In response to an appeal by a group of bird students, a meeting was held on February 23, 1945 at the Natural History Society of Maryland [2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore] to organize a bird study club.....A meeting was called for March 9th at 8:30 P.M. to elect officers and adopt a constitution.....At the March 9th meeting Orville Crowder was elected Vice-President." - Volume 1, No. 2 of Maryland Birdlife. He and Miss Florence H. Burner made up the first Hike Committee. He led his first bird trip for the new organization on 17 March 1945, when they went to Harwood and Point Oliver on Gunpowder River. They recorded 18 species. He also led the next two trips of the infant organization—on 18 March to Dundee Creek where they saw 35 species and on 25 March to Sandy Point and over on the ferry to Matapeake with 33 species recorded. (Vol. 1, No. 1)

He was elected the second President of the Society on 8 March 1946. He served until March of 1952, when he was replaced by Chandler S. Robbins as President. Orville continued on as State Secretary and served in that position until March 1955.

In the January-February 1948 issue (Vol. 4, No. 1) we read, "Our President, Mr. Orville Crowder, was not in his usual place, and our Society missed his infectious enthusiasm. It was with real sorrow that we learned that his brother, Mr. Newton Wright Crowder, passed away suddenly on the afternoon of our [December 12] meeting."

Orville was also interested in young people and encouraged their participation through his state-wide lectures to schools and by helping to organize their clubs. By the spring of 1947 there were 43 Junior Clubs in the state.

His activities during his tenure as President were many. In addition to leading many field trips and having meetings at his property on Bird River, one of the most significant things he did was to travel to far corners of the state to give lectures about the Society and birding in general, and to encourage local participation in birding. As a result of these trips he encouraged people to organize meetings that eventually became new chapters of the state Society. The Baltimore Chapter, of course, was the original foundation for the statewide Maryland Ornithological Society.

In his travels Orville was responsible for personally organizing the following chapters: Allegany on 10 September 1947 (with Helen Miller); Frederick, 17 April 1948; Washington County, 26 April 1948; Harford County, 25 October 1949; Anne Arundel, 7 February 1950; Caroline County, 1950; Takoma Park Nature Society, 1951 (now

defunct); and Garrett County, November 1953.

His interest in birding trips led to his leading trips farther afield. He retired from the Martin Aviation Company—in which he worked first in personnel, then in training—in the early 1950's. Following that retirement, he worked at various things, including a year with the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry. Then in 1960 he took a long-dreamed-of trip to Europe to see birds, travelling extensively across the continent and forming valuable friendships. That was the trip that led a group of friends to ask for a similar tour in 1962. He led another to East Africa in 1963, and his full-time work in nature tours had begun. He formed Crowder Nature Tours, the first of the overseas nature tour organizations. Since then until his death he organized some 128 tours to every corner of the world and to every continent. Orville himself led, met briefly, or just joined almost every one of these. In addition, of course, there were his own extensive scouting trips. He went around the world eight times; twice in one year. He eventually visited all but six countries in the world. He missed only Bhutan, China, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, and another I don't know.

These trips were primarily bird-watching trips, and in the course of them Orville compiled a life list exceeding 4,000 species. His AOU list (north of Mexico) stands at 630. His bird lists dating back to 1931 and including many of the first MOS trips are preserved in the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Library of the World Nature Association. His diaries and other memorabilia are here also. Some go back to his childhood.



Messrs. Peterson, Lindblad, and Crowder. Photo probably from an Antarctic cruise.

Over the years more than 900 persons took part in Crowder tours. Orville was especially proud of "repeaters." One woman was on 33 trips; others have taken almost as many.

As a result of these tours he conceived the idea of a world-wide nature organization that would bring together people interested in conservation problems. In April 1969 the World Nature Club was founded. It is now the World Nature Association, and it is committed to carrying out his plans to make it a strong force in the world in promoting an international exchange of natural history and conservation information and help. Having no family, Orville left his entire estate to the Association to help it reach these goals.

His health began to fail in the early 1970's, but he continued to travel with determination. He was the only person to lead a single tour that went to every one of the former Soviet Union Republics. He was preparing for another trip to the Soviet Union when on 21 July 1974 he was struck down with a stroke as he was going out the door, literally with his suitcase in hand. Orville's last trip came on 6 August 1974. His ashes were scattered near his beloved property on Deer Creek in Harford County. Many of the early gatherings of the MOS were held here at what he called "Lost Valley." At one time Deer Creek held Maryland's only endemic species—a small fish called the Maryland Darter. It is now extinct.

This remarkable man touched the lives of many people. He started a whole new aspect of bird-watching, which today is represented by many companies covering every corner of the world.

The World Nature Association has continued his wishes to help conservation and education projects outside the United States. Since 1970 the Association has sponsored 115 projects and given away \$117,577.00. People in 38 countries on 55 continents have benefitted from his legacy. His extensive library of nature and travel books is available for members' use.

The World Nature Association has funded an M.O.S. scholarship called the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Scholarship in his memory. To date some 16 scholarships have been awarded for a total of about \$9,000.00.

Orville Crowder's tour concepts have continued under the name of World Nature Tours, Inc., which Don and Sherry Messersmith took on in 1975 after his death.

P. O. Box 693, Woodmoor Station, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Received 23 February 1995

CHANGES IN SUBURBAN BIRDLIFE IN 60 YEARS

LUTHER C. GOLDMAN

Years ago someone wrote a little verse about what was happening then in the west. It went something like this:

"Their houses have locks on every door,
their land is in a crate.
These ain't the plains of God no more,
but only real estate."

This is what has happened here at College Park in Prince George's County, Maryland, where my wife, Betty, and I have lived since 1959. The house, now about 89 years old, was Betty's childhood home. Houses then were few, and woods and fields surrounded them, providing a world of nature study and considerable habitat for wildlife. Although only 18 kilometers (11 miles) from the District Line of Washington, D.C., it was truly rural, where people had barnyards, a few cows, chickens, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees. It was not unusual, in the spring, to see bobwhites with their large broods feeding on the property, bluebirds and Great Crested Flycatchers using natural nesting sites, and Black-crowned Night-Herons flying over in the late evening for feeding in a nearby marsh. Homeowners had problems protecting the poultry from raiding weasels, skunks, and raccoons.

My father-in-law, Walter F. Mulligan, was an avid student of nature. He kept notes on birdlife, and, as was popular in those early days, sometimes collected their eggs. His records and ours have shown the decline of bird species in the past 60 or more years.

There are numerous reasons, of course, why local changes have taken place here in College Park and caused the drop-off of bird species from earlier lists. Taking the place of country fields and woods are houses everywhere, busy streets, huge shopping centers with sprawling parking lots, and a heavily used, multi-lane beltway that runs 65 miles around the City. Few wooded spots and vacant lots remain. The same man-made reasons for the decline of birds all over the eastern United States apply here, along with what is happening to the wintering habitat for neotropical migrants and others.

Although the home property is only 0.4 hectare (one acre) in size, we have recorded over 125 bird species using it and the air space above it since the 1960's. We have allowed trees, shrubs, and berry and seed plants to grow; in short, we have a small sanctuary here for avifauna. Maturity of the trees and shrubs, plus bird baths and feeders, used year round, have improved the yard habitat, in spite of the decline in number of species using it. Increased use of the area by such aggressive species as European Starling, House Finch, Blue Jay, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk (also Gray Squirrel) is an additional deterrent to bird use here.

Following are lists of seasonally migrant or resident species that we have not seen in years, or that have declined in numbers, and also a list of species that have increased.

Not Seen in Years

Great Blue Heron	Great Horned Owl	Northern Waterthrush
Green Heron	Whip-poor-will	Louisiana Waterthrush
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Belted Kingfisher	Scarlet Tanager
American Kestrel	Red-headed Woodpecker	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Merlin	Great Crested Flycatcher	Indigo Bunting
Northern Bobwhite	Purple Martin	American Tree Sparrow
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Black-billed Cuckoo	No. Rough-winged Swallow	Field Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Bank Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Barn Owl	Cliff Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Screech-Owl	Eastern Bluebird	Evening Grosbeak
	Brown Thrasher	

Decreased in Numbers

Red-shouldered Hawk	Veery	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Magnolia Warbler
Barred Owl	Swainson's Thrush	Cape May Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Hermit Thrush	Black-th. Green Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Bay-breasted Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Ovenbird
Eastern Kingbird	White-eyed Vireo	Rufous-sided Towhee
Barn Swallow	Solitary Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Tennessee Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Winter Wren	Nashville Warbler	Northern Oriole
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Northern Parula	Purple Finch
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Yellow Warbler	Pine Siskin

Increased in Numbers

Tundra Swan (overhead)	Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Canada Goose (overhead, residents increasing)	Downy Woodpecker	Common Grackle
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cooper's Hawk	Fish Crow	House Finch
	European Starling	House Sparrow

9210 49th Avenue, College Park, MD 20740

Received 15 September 1994

FIFTY YEARS OF MOS CONVENTIONS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bird Species</u>
1945	40	Md. Nat. Hist. Soc., Baltimore	
1946		Md. Nat. Hist. Soc., Baltimore	
1947		Baltimore	
1948	114	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1949	112	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1950	125	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1951		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1952		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1953	79	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1954		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1955	133	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	169
1956		Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	179
1957	152	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	152
1958		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	105
1959	150	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	156
1960		Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	170
1961	191	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	180
1962	181	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	164
1963	223	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	184
1964		Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	207
1965	150	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	190
1966	191	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	182
1967	245	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1968	304	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	186
1969	313	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1970	322	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	200
1971	317	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	213
1972	313	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1973	310+	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1974	250+	Santa Maria Motor Hotel, Ocean City	
1975	308	Diplomat Motel, Ocean City	204
1976	228	Fenwick Inn, Ocean City	
1977	190	Fenwick Inn, Ocean City	224
1978		Plim Plaza, Ocean City	
1979		Plim Plaza, Ocean City	
1980	223	Fenwick Inn, Ocean City	193
1981	200+	Delmarva Convention Hall, Delmar	185
1982	315+	Delmarva Convention Hall, Delmar	202
1983	250	Delmarva Convention Hall, Delmar	198
1984	414	Frostburg State College	154
1985	302	Salisbury State College	173
1986	275+	Frostburg State College	
1987	195	Washington College, Chestertown	
1988	216	Hood College, Frederick	
1989		Frostburg State University	
1990	345	Washington College, Chestertown	
1991		4-H Center, Chevy Chase	127
1992	220	Salisbury State University	
1993		Frostburg State University	
1994		Bible Conference Center, Cecil Co.	192
1995		Mt. St. Marys College, Emmitsburg	

M.O.S. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

The Maryland Ornithological Society has reason to be proud of its involvement in bird conservation not only in Maryland, but also in tropical areas where so many Maryland birds spend the winter. This involvement has included many aspects, ranging from direct purchase of land for incorporation in tropical preserves to support of bird research activities in the West Indies, Mexico, and Central and South America, to training of Latin American biologists, to supplying books, binoculars, and other equipment to scientists, students, and wardens in tropical countries.

Our participation in tropical conservation began in 1960 when Cdr. Edward Wilson from the Anne Arundel Chapter volunteered to assist me for a month on the Midway Islands developing ways to reduce the hazard of albatrosses to aircraft and vice versa. This was the first of more than a dozen instances where MOS volunteers assisted U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service teams in tropical research and training expeditions.

Through challenge grants MOS members have contributed substantial funding for the purchase of critical rain forest and cloud forest preserves in several countries. In 1983 the Baltimore, Howard, Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington County Chapters responded generously to a plea from the Costa Rica Parks Foundation.

In 1989 the Baltimore Bird Club donated \$1,000 from the Martin Fund to the Monteverde Conservation League in Costa Rica to buy 20 acres of Monteverde forest. A challenge grant in 1990 raised an additional \$2,715 for Monteverde.

In 1990, responding to an urgent plea from the World Parks Endowment, the Patuxent Chapter raised \$2,553 in small contributions that preserved a square mile of an initial land purchase on Sierra de las Minas in Guatemala. Subsequent purchases, including a donation of \$5,000 from the Howard County Chapter, plus designation of adjacent land by the Guatemalan government resulted in establishment of Sierra de las Minas as a Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations!

In 1991 a challenge grant resulted in the purchase of 50 acres of rain forest in the Rio Bravo preserve in northwestern Belize. This preserve is strategically located, being contiguous with two other extensive protected areas: Tikal National Park in Guatemala and the Calakmul reserve in the Mexican state of Campeche.

In 1992, proceeds from the Howard County Chapter's seed sales were donated to the Bladen Mountains Nature Reserve in southern Belize.

In 1993 the Patuxent Chapter initiated a Rain Forest Challenge to help the new Guatemalan conservation organization FUNDAECO (Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation) purchase land for a reserve at Cerro San Gil (pronounced sahn heel) on the Atlantic slope. Contributions from the Patuxent, Howard, Baltimore, Montgomery, Washington, Frederick, and Harford Chapters and from many members were augmented by proceeds of the silent auction, raffle, and photography contests at the 1992, 1993 and 1994 MOS Conferences, and checks totaling \$13,937 were sent to FUNDAECO, earmarked for land purchase. Some of this money is already paying

double dividends. The first check (\$3,100) resulted in matching funds from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the match to be used for supporting the Guatemala Research Training Center. Since the 1994 Conference additional contributions have been received from the Talbot and Patuxent Chapters and from many individual members.

MOS also recently donated \$500 to help rebuild the Las Cruces Biological Station in Costa Rica through the Organization for Tropical Studies.

Research on habitat requirements of migrants on their wintering grounds was started in Belize (formerly British Honduras) by Manomet Bird Observatory in 1983. Ed Smith and Chan and Eleanor Robbins were among the first volunteers to participate in that program. In 1984 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began a survey of use of tropical habitats by both migrants and resident birds. Volunteer banders from Maryland and a dozen other states and Canadian provinces have been an essential ingredient of this study, as have Latin American conservation organizations in the host countries. Some of this work has focused on conservation lands, some in agricultural habitats. An example of protected areas included in these studies is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Some of the Tropical Protected Areas for which MOS Members Have Provided Quantitative Data on Habitat Use by Birds

Name of Reserve	Country	Years
Pinones Mangrove Reserve	Puerto Rico, USA	1984
Reserva Forestal Maricao	Puerto Rico, USA	1984, 1987
Reserva Forestal Cambalache	Puerto Rico, USA	1987
Guanica Biosphere Reserve	Puerto Rico, USA	1985, 1987
Parque Nacional del Este	Dominican Republic	1984
Henri Pittier National Park	Venezuela	1985
Tapanti National Park	Costa Rica	1984
Crown Lands, Cockpit Country	Jamaica	1984
Blue Mountain (Hardwar Gap)	Jamaica	1986
Guanacaste Park Bird Sanctuary	Belize	1983, 1987
Parrots Wood (now Belize Zoo)	Belize	1983, 1987
Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanct.	Belize	1990
Community Baboon Sanctuary	Belize	1991
Rio Bravo Conservation Area	Belize	1991
Shipstern Wildlife Reserve	Belize	1991
Estacion de Biologia Los Tuxtlas	Veracruz, Mexico	1987
Rancho Sandoval	Campeche, Mexico	1992
Reserva Biosphera Sierra de las Minas	Guatemala	1992
Reserva Natural de Monterrico	Guatemala	1992
Cerro San Gil	Guatemala	1992-95

For the most part, the MOS volunteers, all experienced bird banders, paid their expenses, but in some years a grant from the Dorothy Blake Martin Fund of the Baltimore Chapter or the MOS Research Fund covered some of the travel costs, and in some years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided partial funding for MOS volunteers.

Honor roll of MOS tropical volunteers: George Armistead, Marty Barron, Daniel Boone, Margaret and Morrill Donald, Nate Erwin, Andy Hicks, Jane Fallon, Linda Hollenberg, David Holmes, Mark Johnson, Henry Louie, Bob Lyon, Charlotte Pryor, Eleanor, and Jane Robbins, Barbara Ross, John Sauer, Edgar Smith, Susie Strange, Edward Wilson. The Donalds, Edgar Smith, and others have also assisted with other research projects in Venezuela.

Those MOS members who have participated in the World Nature Association tours have helped sponsor 115 projects in 38 countries; the bulk of these projects have been in Latin America. See Don Messersmith's memorial article on Orville Crowder.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Maryland

BARN SWALLOW (*HIRUNDO RUSTICA*) ON THE ALLEGANY COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

JIM PAULUS and TERESA SIMONS

On 11 November 1993, we visited the soybean waste treatment facility along the North Branch of the Potomac River at North Branch, about eight kilometers south of Cumberland, Maryland, to look for lingering shorebirds. After finding a few Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) and American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*), we started a count of the large number of Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) present. While checking one of the ponds, Paulus made a brief sighting of a Barn Swallow but we were unable to relocate the bird.

Some time during the first week of December, Mary Twigg, a member of the Allegany Chapter of M.O.S., called Paulus to report a Barn Swallow at the treatment facility, saying the bird had been seen several times in the last week of November and in early December. Simons checked the facility on 4 December and found the bird.

The soybean waste treatment facility consists of three waste-water impoundments, each about 4 hectares in size. Two of the impoundments are open and one is covered with a waterproof tarpaulin. Pipes and structures under the tarpaulin produce about 50 small pools of water on top of the tarpaulin. In the summer and fall these pools are loaded with insects, making them a gathering spot for migrant shorebirds. One of the workers told us that the area under the cover is heated to a temperature between 17° and 20° C (62-68° F). This keeps the water on top from freezing and ensures that insects are available well into the fall. A fence surrounds the three ponds and trespassing is not allowed. The best place for viewing the covered pond is from the towpath of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, which parallels the service road on one side of the pond.

Paulus visited the area on 11 December and saw the Barn Swallow flying low over the rainwater pools, occasionally skimming along the water surface picking up insects. For the next seven days Paulus saw the bird every morning. Its favorite perch was on a utility line alongside the road, where it could frequently be seen preening and occasionally heard giving a twittering song. The coldest day during this period was 13 December, when the morning temperature was -7.5°C (19°F). Paulus photographed the bird on 16 December as it was sitting on the wire and singing, and after seeing the bird late on the 17th, assumed it would be present for the Christmas Bird Count the next day.

At 11 a.m. on the 18th we found the Barn Swallow flying low over the rainwater pools on the covered impoundment. The temperature was about 2.5°C (36°F), the sky was partly cloudy, and the wind out of the west at about five kph. The bird was in typical adult plumage. The upperparts were blue-black. The tail was long and forked, and white patches were visible when the tail was spread. The forehead patch and throat were reddish-brown, and the rest of the underparts were cinnamon-buff.

The following behavioral notes were made during the period of the bird's stay. It appeared to be healthy in every respect, capable of strong and fast flight. It was capable of catching insects on the wing and skimming them off the water. It was capable of singing and preening itself. When sitting on the tarpaulin it did not limp, stagger, or lose its balance. When perched on the line it did not flutter or lose its balance.

About 400 meters from the waste treatment facility is a barn housing about 30 cows. Several times the Barn Swallow was seen perched on a utility line next to the barn, and we presume that this is where the bird spent its nights.

Paulus saw the Barn Swallow again on 19 December, and for the last time on the 20th. The weather on those two days was very cold, dark, and windy, with blowing snow. About 10 cm of snow fell on the 21st.

*P. O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501 and
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Received 4 April 1995

SIGHTING OF CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW FLEDGLING

SUE A. RICCIARDI

On the morning of 2 June 1994, I was conducting a bird survey near Marley Creek in northern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The surrounding area was a mixture of woodland, farm fields, small businesses, and residential development. The 12 hectare (30 acre) forested survey site was bordered by a secondary road, a cultivated farm field, a business establishment and, to the north, Marley Creek. Second-growth pine and mixed deciduous trees averaging 12 meters (40 feet) in height were the norm. Comprising about one-fourth to one-third of the site was a tract of scrub pine (*Pinus*

virginiana) where the understory was practically devoid of vegetation. The forest floor was blanketed with pine needles and dry leaves and littered with dead trees and branches.

As I was walking through the section of pines, I was startled by something that fluttered up to my side from behind me. A bird flew across in front of me continuing its fluttery flight, but not leaving the immediate vicinity. Instead, it alighted on a dead tree branch about one meter from the ground, croaking softly and clearly agitated. After a few moments, it flew to another low perch. Immediately I could see that it was a Caprimulgid species. I noted that it was a warm brown color overall, including the throat, which was bordered by a narrow creamy throat band. As the bird flew, it fanned its tail, revealing patches of white in the outer tail feathers. I identified it as a male Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*).

I thought perhaps there was a nest nearby, so I retreated, and eventually the bird flew to the ground. Unfortunately, when I moved to get a better view, I couldn't locate the bird again, nor did I see any nest. I then decided to leave to complete my survey. When I finished, to avoid a barking unleashed dog, I wound up walking near the same area. Suddenly, to my astonishment, a second Caprimulgid rose up from the ground about 0.6 meter from me. This bird resembled the first one, but with no white in the tail, indicating a female Chuck-will's-widow. She flew to a limb a short distance away, and in a menacing posture with her mouth wide open, hissed at me. When I looked down at the spot on the ground that she had just vacated, I discovered a fledgling, lying still. It was covered in a creamy yellow down with tawny marks on the back. Because I was concerned about the birds' well being, I left the area immediately. Upon my exit, I twice heard the call of a nearby Chuck-will's-widow. Subsequently, on a roadside visit at dusk, I heard at least two Chuck-will's-widows calling within the surrounding area.

Now I wish I had stayed to observe the fledgling just a bit longer, because I have since learned how unusual this sighting was. Little information is available on the nesting behavior of Chuck-will's-widows in Maryland. The Maryland Nest Record File cites just eight nests with eggs, located between early May and early June, and dating from 1920. Only one of those records refers to young—a nest on the ground with two downy young found by Brooke Meanley in an open stand of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) near Hooper's Island in Dorchester County on 18 June 1958. During the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas (in press), only four instances of confirmed breeding were reported, and none indicated the presence of fledglings. The atlas data show that the Chuck-will's-widow is largely confined to the Eastern and Western Shore Sections of the Coastal Plain, where it is sparsely distributed.

Whether this species will continue to nest on the site is uncertain; the survey was conducted as a precursor to a residential development.

1132 Ferber Avenue, Arnold, Maryland

Received 20 April 1995



FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 1993

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The hot and dry conditions of July continued through August with seventeen counties suffering drought conditions, especially the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland. September and October were cooler, with a few cold fronts passing through, and with close to normal precipitation. November was warm and a little wetter than normal. Many species took advantage of the extensive growth of hydrilla vegetation on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia.

Observers: Henry and George Armistead, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Bill Dobbins, Margaret Donald, Paul DuMont, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Jean & Larry Fry, Ralph Geuder, Inez Glime, Caleb Gordon, Greg Gough, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Bill Howe, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Don Merritt, Stauffer Miller, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Ken Rosenberg, Barbara Ross, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Teresa Simons, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Dan & Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Joy Wheeler, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Adventure Sanctuary by Margaret Donald, at Cherry Creek by Fran Pope and Connie Skipper, and at Irvine by Barbara Ross with assistance from several birders.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Adventure Sanctuary (Montgomery), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park

(Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Broadford Reservoir (Garrett), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Dan's Rock (Allegany), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Eden Brook (Howard), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Harford Glen (Harford), Harney Road Pond (Frederick), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Reservoir (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (Prince George's), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path (Howard), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Sugarloaf Mountain (Frederick), Susquehanna SP (Harford), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Town Hill (Allegany), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes. **Red-throated Loons** this fall included single sightings at Fort Smallwood on Oct. 22 and Nov. 18 (Wierenga), at the mouth of the Choptank River on Oct. 24 (H. Armistead+), at Great Falls on Nov. 10 and again on Nov. 20 (Linda Friedland), at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 14 (Bjerke), at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese), at Loch Raven on Nov. 18 (Simon), at Piney Run Park, Nov. 21-25 (Ringler), with 2 on Nov. 25 (Harvey), and at Rocky Gap on Nov. 26 (Czaplak, Stasz). Single **Common Loons** at Assateague on Aug. 4 (Dobbins) and Aug. 15 (Hoffman), at Loch Raven on Aug. 5 (Simon), and at Bellevue on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead+), may have summered locally. The first migrant noted at Assateague was on Sept. 11 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien, J. O'Brien), and 150 were counted at Bellevue on Oct. 31 (Armisteads). Inland Common Loons were 40 at Centennial on Nov. 1 (Ott), 168 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 20 (Janni), and 26 at Deep Creek Lake and 34 at Broadford Reservoir on Nov. 26 (Czaplak). In late November, several stranded Common Loons, mistaking ice-covered roads for water in Garrett County, were rescued and released in Deep Creek Lake. Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Piney Run on Aug. 5 (Ringler), and in West Ocean City on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), and the highest concentration was 44 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). Steve Simon found inland Pied-billeds at Loch Raven with 20 on Nov. 29, and he discovered 2 early **Horned Grebes** there on Oct. 14. Other Horned Grebes enjoyed the DC hydrilla, with 1 there on Oct. 17, and 20 on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), and 25 on Nov. 19 (Rick Sussman). Howard County also hosted a few Horned Grebes with single birds at Centennial Lake and at Wilde Lake on Oct. 19 (Ott). A **Red-necked Grebe** in winter plumage was reported in DC on Nov. 29 (Ted Unseth).

Storm-Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. One or 2 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were about 50 yards offshore at PRNAS on Aug. 8 (Rambo) and off Smith Island on Aug. 15 (Stasz+). Mark Hoffman spotted 2 **Northern Gannets** at Assateague on Oct. 16. **Brown Pelicans** included 1 at PRNAS on Sept. 6 (Rambo), 40 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), and 2 near Crisfield on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga). Ocean City remains a favorite spot for **Great Cormorants** with 3 on Oct. 9 (Hoffman), and 4 to 5 from Oct. 14 (Jay Sheppard) through November. **Double-crested Cormorants** were numerous with an adult at Salisbury on Aug. 3 (Dyke), 1 flying over Hagerstown on Sept. 12 (Cam & Norma Lewis), 121 at Back River on Sept. 18 (Scarpulla), 120 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico, Peters), 750 at Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+), 550 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), 1 at Violettes Lock on Oct. 11 (Bonham), 120 migrating through DC on Oct. 23 and 170 flying over Sugarloaf Mountain on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 6 (Farrell, Solem, Osenton), 270 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), and 4 near Marshall Hall on Nov. 21 (Nistico).

Herons, Ibises. With the dry conditions, the 2 early **American Bitterns** flying low over Hughes Hollow, on Aug. 14, may have been searching for suitable habitat (D. Southworth). Another was seen there on Sept. 19 (Rosenberg+), and others included 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 29 (Lola Oberman), 1 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), and 1 seen repeatedly near Frederick, Oct. 16—Nov. 3 (Miller). Jan Reese reported 3 **Least Bitterns** at Grasonville on Aug. 9, 3 near Easton on Aug. 10, and 1 at Grasonville on Aug. 20. Interesting **Great Egret** sightings were 22 at PWRC on Aug. 8 and 57 there on Aug. 26 (Osenton), 8 at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth), 150 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hoffman), 16 in DC on Oct. 16 (Czaplak), 1 at Piney Run on Oct. 31 (Ringler), 2 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), 1 at Back River on Nov. 7 (Scarpulla), and 3 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 28 (Walbeck+). **Snowy Egrets** of note included 38 near Grasonville on Aug. 9 (Reese), 170 at Assateague on Aug. 13 and 120 there on Oct. 10 (Hoffman), 1 at Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Howe), and 1 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 28 (Walbeck+). Unusual inland, there were 4 immature **Little Blue Herons** at Piney Run, Aug. 28—Sept. 19 (Ringler), and 3 immature birds at Hughes Hollow on July 29 (Hilton). Several Little Blues were noted at Assateague, with 40 on Oct. 2, and the last 1 on Nov. 7 (Hoffman). Reese found **Tricolored Herons** near Grasonville with 1 on Aug. 2 and 8 on Aug. 9. The high count was a nice total of 100 at Bloodsworth Island on Aug. 10 (Lister, Rambo). Hoffman notched 60 Tricoloreds at Assateague on Oct. 10, and Dave, Marguerite, and Joseph Walbeck discovered 3 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 28. Harry and George Armistead observed a late **Cattle Egret** at Blackwater on Oct. 30, and **Green Heron** reports included 17 at Indian Head on Aug. 16 (Carol Ghebelian), 1 at PWRC on Nov. 4 (Osenton), and 1 at Centennial Lake until Nov. 26 (Farrell). An inland **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Loch Raven on Aug. 28 (Simon), and 2 immatures were seen near Frederick on Sept. 15, at the same location where an adult bird was first seen on July 26 (Miller). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** of note were an immature at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 15 (Gough, Oseenton), an immature at Assateague on Sept. 6-12 (Hoffman), an immature at Pennyfield on Sept. 8 (Dobbins) and Sept. 13 (Bonham), an adult at Riderwood on Oct. 1 (Daniel Hardesty), and an immature at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 6 (Chestem, Ott, Solem). It was a good season for **White Ibises**, with an immature seen at Hughes Hollow by Paul Pisano on July 29 and by Robert Hilton on July 31. Two immature Whites were seen at Harford Glen on Aug. 7 (Webb), and one remained through Sept. 10 (Frys). An immature was at Assateague with a large flock of Glossy Ibis on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), and an immature was at Liberty Lake, Baltimore/Carroll counties, Aug. 8-21 (Ed Boyd+). **Glossy Ibises** were 9 near Grasonville on Aug. 2 (Reese), 2 reported by several birders at Hughes Hollow from Aug. 5 (Dick Homan) through Aug. 10 (Dobbins), 81 at Assateague on Aug. 8 and 10 there on Oct. 2 (Hoffman), and an immature, far inland, at North Branch on Nov. 28 (Twigg).

Swans, Geese. A **Tundra Swan** at Denton on Aug. 10, was found dead on Oct. 14 (Hewitt). Thirteen early Tundra Swans were at Denton on Oct. 3 (M. Miller). Higher counts were 145 at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Armisteads), and 1800 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 7 (DuMont). The unfortunate spread of **Mute Swans** continues with 370 at Hooper Island on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), a pair with 4 young at Rodo Beach on Aug. 15 (Ringler+), 48 at Claiborne on Sept. 12 (Ringler), an adult and 3 immatures at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), 1 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico, Peters), 24, for a new high at Bellevue, on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead), 38 at Newcomb on Oct. 25 (Reese), and 5 at Grove Neck WMA, Cecil County on Nov. 7 (Ringler). A **Black Swan** was discovered with a group of Mute Swans at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman). A lone **Snow Goose** was seen flying over Sandy Point on Sept. 25 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 1 was inland at Knoxville on Oct. 3 (Miller). Others were 4 adults and 6 immatures at Tydings Island, Oct. 12-14 (Webb), 2 whites and 3 blues at Fulton on Oct. 31 and 2

blues at Lime Kiln Pond in Howard County on Nov. 6 (Farrell, Solem), over 400 at Denton on Nov. 7 (Nuttle), and 4500 near Sudlersville on Nov. 26 (DuMont). At least one **Ross' Goose** seems to make an appearance in recent fall seasons, but Harry Armistead found a blue phase Ross' at Blackwater on Nov. 7. Other Ross' reports were 1 near Sudlersville on Nov. 7 (DuMont), an adult near Snow Hill on Nov. 10 (Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan), and 1 with about 4000 Snow Geese in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 28 (Stasz, Iliff). The high for **Brant** was 50 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hoffman), and 1 was inland at Loch Raven, Oct. 14-26 (Simon). High numbers of **Canada Geese** were 175 at Mt. Airy, Carroll County on Aug. 28 (Ringler), 70 at West Ocean City on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), 385 at Loch Raven on Sept. 7 (Simon), and 500 at Fulton on Oct. 31 (Farrell, Solem). Suspected **Canada X Greater White-fronted Geese** hybrids were observed at Laytonsville on Nov. 24 (Dobbins), and at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt).

Dabbling Ducks. Jan Reese found a **Wood Duck** with 5 flightless young at Centreville on Aug. 10, and lingerers were 1 at Thurmont on Nov. 21 (Ringler), 6 on the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico), and 3 in DC on Nov. 24 (Janni). Early **Green-winged Teal** were 2 at Blackwater on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), 4 near Grasonville on Aug. 20 (Reese), and 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 25 (Simon). Others were 50 at Patuxent River Park on Sept. 11 (Nistico), 200 at Easton on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), several hundred at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on Nov. 11 (Jett), and 35 at Loch Raven on Nov. 18 (Simon). Large numbers of **Mallards** included 190 at Piney Run on Aug. 5 (Ringler), 300 at West Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Hoffman), 1200 in DC on Oct. 29 (Janni), and 475 at Blackwater on Nov. 6 (H. Armistead+). The first **Northern Pintails** were 2 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). Notable numbers of Pintails were 770 in the DC hydrilla on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 525 at Blackwater the same day (Armisteads), and 18 at West Ocean City on Nov. 6 (Hoffman). No early **Blue-winged Teals** were reported; 60 were in the DC hydrilla on Sept. 5 (Czaplak), and a lingering female was at Centennial on Nov. 21 (Zeichner). Two early **Northern Shovelers** were at the Berlin sewage ponds on Aug. 28 (Hoffman). Higher numbers were 40 at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt), 190 in DC on Oct. 27 (Janni), 40 at Easton on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), 250 feeding on hydrilla in DC on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), and about 100 at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on Nov. 11 (Jett). Paul Nistico found 6 early **Gadwalls** at Patuxent River Park on Sept. 11. Others were 75 in DC on Oct. 29 (Janni), and 80 on the Potomac in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was sorted out at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga) and Nov. 20 (Dan King). **American Wigeons** were early with 1 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), 8 at Loch Raven on Sept. 9 (Simon), and 1 at West Ocean City on Sept. 11 (Hoffman). Highs were over 5000 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 10 (D. Southworth) and Oct. 14 (Lawler), 70 in DC on Oct. 29 (Janni), and 260 at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon).

Diving Ducks. No large counts for the **Canvasback** were reported; a solo drake was at Tydings Island on Oct. 13 (Webb). A **Ring-necked Duck** seen on Aug. 13 and 20 at the Berlin sewage ponds may have summered (Hoffman). Others included 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 26 (Ringler), 30 near Gaithersburg on Oct. 23 (Bonham), and the high of 750 at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon). A **Greater Scaup** was at Piney Run on Nov. 7 (Ringler). A single male **Lesser Scaup** was near Piscataway on Sept. 6, and about 1000 were on the Potomac in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). An adult male **Common Eider** visited the pond at West Ocean City on Nov. 6 (Hoffman), and was seen again on Nov. 10 (Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan) and on Nov. 13 (Magnusson). A female **King Eider** was reported at Sandy Point on Nov. 27 (Rosenberg). An adult drake **Harlequin Duck** was at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 13 (Magnusson) and Nov.

26 (Janni); a female was reported at OC on Nov. 27 (DuMont). **Oldsquaws** were early with 3 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10 (Reese). At least 4 were at Thomas Point on Oct. 23 (Kathy Lambert+), 2 were inland at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 19 (Bonham), 1 was inland at Loch Raven on Oct. 26, with 2 there on Oct. 27 (Simon), and a remarkable 235 fly-overs were tallied in DC on Nov. 7 (Czaplak, Janni). Steve Simon discovered an inland **Black Scoter** at Loch Raven on Oct. 26, a female was at Piney Run on Nov. 14 (Ringler+), and Ottavio Janni notched a female at Hains Point on Nov. 25. Harry Armistead and party identified 2 **Surf Scoters** flying over Bellevue on Sept. 25, 11 immatures were noted at DC on Oct. 4 (Dobbins), 1 was inland at Loch Raven on Oct. 26 (Simon), 200 were tallied near Crisfield on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga), and a female was at Piney Run Oct. 31—Nov. 14 (Ringler+). The immature Surf Scoter in Howard County at Centennial on Nov. 1 and at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 7 and Nov. 11 (Solem+) are believed to be the same bird. Two females or immatures were at the Gunpowder River in Harford County on Nov. 11-14 (Webb), 2 birds were at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 21 (Czaplak), and a male was at Triadelphia on Nov. 28 (Farrell, Solem). **White-winged Scoters** also were noted, with 8 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 30 (Czaplak). **Buffleheads** began with 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 18 (Simon), and the high count at Triadelphia was 85 on Nov. 1 (Solem). Others were 26 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 7 (Weesner), 225 at Grasonville on Nov. 9 and 350 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 14 (Reese), 60 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 19 (Bonham), and a nice tally of close to 2000 on the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). Sixty **Hooded Mergansers** were on the Potomac in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico), 70 at Piney Run on Nov. 21 (Ringler), and 105 at Broadford Lake on Nov. 26 (Czaplak). Mark Hoffman discovered a female **Common Merganser** at Assateague on Nov. 7, and Harry Armistead and his family notched 55 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Bellevue on Nov. 13. Solo early **Ruddy Ducks** were inland at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Ott, Wilkinson), at Loch Raven on Sept. 27 (Simon), and at Denton on Sept. 30 (Hewitt). Bob Ringler noted 60 at Piney Run on Nov. 6-7.

Vultures, Ospreys, Eagles, Hawks. A pair of **Black Vultures** with flightless young was discovered near North East on Aug. 24 (Reese). A record DC count of 187 **Turkey Vultures**, all migrants, was tallied on Oct. 23 (Czaplak, Janni). Connie Skipper counted 35 between Grantsville and Bittinger on Oct. 26. **Ospreys** running late were at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 13 (Webb), at Assateague on Nov. 21 (Dyke), and at Triadelphia on Nov. 28 (Osenton). Three adult **Bald Eagles** were observed at Loch Raven on Oct. 7 (Simon), and 10 Bald Eagles were seen along the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). An early migrant **Northern Harrier** was notched near New Market on Aug. 22 (Miller). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** began with 1 in Charles County on Aug. 15 (Nistico), 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 29 (Reese), and 1 at Bellevue on Sept. 1 (G. Armistead). **Cooper's Hawks** started with 1 at Whiteleysburg on Aug. 11 (Reese, Short), 1 at Bellevue on Aug. 22 (Armisteads), 1 at Denton on Aug. 23 (Short), 7 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 19 (Reese), and 12 in DC on Oct. 23 (Czaplak). **Northern Goshawks** made quite a few lists this fall with single sightings at High Ridge Park, Howard County on Oct. 16 (Chan Robbins), in DC on Oct. 24 and Oct. 28 (Czaplak), at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary on Oct. 31 (Peter Hanan), and in DC on Nov. 2 (Janni). Czaplak and Janni tallied 44 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and 70 **Red-tailed Hawks** in DC on Nov. 7. High numbers for the **Broad-winged Hawk** were 6363 fly-overs near Centennial on Sept. 20 (Mike Kerwin), 2500 near Ellicott City on Sept. 20 (Ott), 586 at Darnestown on Sept. 21 (Simonson), 1467 at Centennial on Sept. 22 (Kerwin), 793 at Rockburn Branch Park the same day (Geuder), 40 at Susquehanna SP on Sept. 24 (Webb), and 120 at Sandy Point on Sept. 25 (Davidson, Wierenga). Bonnie Ott noted 1 at Ellicott City on Oct. 24. An early **Rough-legged Hawk** was inland near Emmitsburg on Oct. 31 (Paul Fritz). Interesting **Golden Eagles** were individuals at Centennial on

TABLE 1. HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL, ALLEGANY COUNTY, FALL 1993

Compiled by Jim Paulus

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Turkey Vulture	10/10	11/29	163	70 on 10/18, 39 on 10/22
Osprey	9/3	10/9	41	9 on 9/29, 9 on 10/2
Bald Eagle	8/28	9/29	7	3 on 9/11, 2 on 9/15
Northern Harrier	9/3	11/20	52	6 on 11/1, 4 on 11/2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/23	12/1	450	60 on 10/22, 33 on 10/18
Cooper's Hawk	9/15	11/7	43	7 on 10/22, 5 on 10/3
Northern Goshawk	10/26	11/29	4	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/27	12/2	40	13 on 10/28, 5 on 11/7
Broad-winged Hawk	8/23	10/13	1023	599 on 9/20, 148 on 9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	9/25	12/2	418	61 on 11/7, 43 on 10/26
Rough-legged Hawk	11/20		1	
Golden Eagle	10/18	11/20	19	5 on 11/20, 2 on 10/18
American Kestrel	8/23	10/23	82	12 on 9/10, 10 on 9/29
Merlin	9/29	10/29	5	2 on 9/30
Peregrine Falcon	9/22	10/6	10	3 on 9/30, 2 on 10/2
Unidentified			68	
Total (58 days, 250 hours)	8/23	12/2	2426	615 on 9/20, 161 on 9/18

Sept. 21 (Farrell), and on Nov. 1 (Ott), an immature at Loch Raven on Sept. 22 (Simon), an adult at Blackwater on Nov. 18 (Wilson), an adult north of Frederick on Nov. 24 (Miller), and an immature at Blackwater on Nov. 25 (Andy Higgs).

Falcons. Jan Reese noted 3 **American Kestrels** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 8, and the high counts included 12 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 2 (Southworths), and 45 at Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+). **Merlin** reports included 4 on Sept. 11 at Assateague (Hoffman), 1 from Sept. 12 to Oct. 3 at UMC (Atkinson), 1 from Sept. 20 to Nov. 23 near Ellicott City (Ott), 4 on Sept. 25 at Assateague (Hoffman), 2 on Oct. 3 at Washington Monument SP (Howe), and 1 on Oct. 31 (Czaplak) and Nov. 21 (C. Welborn, D. Kuroda) near Lilypons. **Peregrine Falcons** were also numerous with single birds near Ellicott City on Sept. 5 (Ott), at South Point Farms, Worcester County on Sept. 18 (Hoffman), Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+), (immature) at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Oct. 3 (Miller), at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 3 (Howe), and at Tilghman Island on Oct. 3 (Reese); 7 were at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman), and singles at Bellevue on Oct. 24 (Liz Armistead), in DC on Oct. 25 (Tom Otwell), in Columbia on Oct. 26 (Geuder), (immature) diving into a pigeon flock in Bethesda on Nov. 3 (Hilton), and at National City Christian Church, Nov. 13-21 (S. Foxwell, F. DeLuca, M. Mehlman).

TABLE 2. HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, FALL 1993

Compiled by Paul Fritz from the Observations of
Lynn Davidson and Hal Wierenga

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	9/24	10/22	5	2 on 9/24, 3 on 10/22
Turkey Vulture	9/19	11/7	97	18 on 9/29 & 11/7, 13 on 9/24
Osprey	9/19	11/7	41	6 on 9/19 & 9/24
Bald Eagle	9/19	10/28	19	5 on 9/28, 4 on 9/19
Northern Harrier	9/19	11/7	49	13 on 9/28, 9 on 10/22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/19	11/7	389	102 on 9/28, 83 on 10/22
Cooper's Hawk	9/19	11/7	29	9 on 10/10, 4 on 9/29 & 10/22
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/19	11/7	12	6 on 11/7, 2 on 10/22
Broad-winged Hawk	9/19	10/10	2	
Red-tailed Hawk	9/19	11/7	111	59 on 11/7, 20 on 11/1
American Kestrel	9/19	10/28	149	40 on 9/29, 36 on 9/19
Merlin	10/10	10/22	3	2 on 10/22
Peregrine Falcon	9/22		1	
Unidentified			7	

Total	9/19	11/7	914	147 on 9/28, 143 on 9/29
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(13 days, 51 hours)

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots. A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was spotted at Bellevue on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), and an adult **Wild Turkey** with 4 young was found near Washington Monument SP, Frederick County on Aug. 15 (Weesner). Other turkeys included 8 at Martinak SP, Wicomico County on Sept. 27 (Pitney) and 6 at Liberty Reservoir on Nov. 17 (Wayne Abbott). Dobbins heard a **Black Rail** calling at Assateague on Aug. 4-5, and Reese reported a **Clapper Rail** at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville on Aug. 9 and another at Tilghman Island on Oct. 3. A **King Rail** was seen at Horsehead Sanctuary on Sept. 12 (Ringler+), another was heard at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico), and **Virginia Rails** included the only 1 banded at Adventure on Sept. 23, about 6 at the Gunpowder River, Harford County on Sept. 24 (Webb), and another near Frederick on Oct. 27 (Miller). Thirty **Soras** were at Patuxent River Park on Sept. 11 (Nistico), 2 were heard at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico), 1 was at the Cherry Creek Banding Station on Sept. 22 (Pope, Skipper), 1 was at the Gunpowder River in Harford County on Sept. 24 (Webb), and 1 was near Frederick on Oct. 15 (Miller). **Common Moorhens** included 2 at the Easton sewage ponds on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), and 50, half young, at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 4 (Dyke). Steve Simon found 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 22 (Simon), and another was in DC the same day (Janni). Two others arrived at the ponds at Ocean Pines on Nov. 6 (Hoffman). Highs for **American Coots** were 1100 in the DC hydrilla on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 225 at Tydings Island on Nov. 1 (Webb), 120 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 8 (Brodericks), 400 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 12 (Bonham), 141 at Piney Run on Nov. 14 (Ringler), and a fantastic 1200+ at Loch Raven on Nov. 23 and Nov. 30 (Simon).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Avocets. **Black-bellied Plovers** began with 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 8 (Reese), and 1 at Hooper Island the same day (H. Armistead). Others

were 1 at Harney Road Pond, near Emmitsburg, on Aug. 28 (Miller), 17 in DC on Oct. 16 and 1 there on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 13 (Blom, Ringler), and 15 at Blackwater on Nov. 18 (Wilson). **Lesser Golden-Plovers** visited Harney Road Pond as well with 4 on Aug. 31 and a high of 114 on Oct. 3 (P. O'Brien). Other locations for Lessers were Assateague, with 1 on Sept. 11 (Hoffman) and 3 fly-overs on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga); DC, with 7 on Sept. 18 and 2 on Oct. 30 (Czaplak, Janni); Florence, with 11 on Sept. 18 (Osenton, Solem); and North Branch, with 1 on Sept. 25-27 (Twigg). **Semipalmated Plovers** included 80 at Assateague on Sept. 6 (Hoffman), and 2 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 21 (Bonham). High counts for **Killdeer** were 66 at Florence on Aug. 21 (Osenton), 68 at Smithson on Aug. 29 (Engle), 45 at Blackwater on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), 89 at Emmitsburg on Sept. 2 (P. O'Brien), 70 at South Point Farms, Worcester County on Sept. 11 (Hoffman), 128 at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 (Magnusson, Farrell), and 57 at Perryman on Nov. 17 (Webb). The high for **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City was 90 on Oct. 9 (Hoffman); 3 were found earlier on Smith Island Aug. 15 (Stasz+). An **American Avocet** was at Fairmount WMA, Somerset County on Aug. 31 (Russ Hill), and another was inland at Loch Raven on Sept. 14-15 (Simon).

Tringine Sandpipers. **Greater Yellowlegs** included 17 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 12 (Marie Plante), 25 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman), 40 at Princess Anne on Oct. 14 (Reese), 70 in DC on Oct. 17 (Czaplak, Janni), 2 at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 22 (Bonham), 1 at Tanyard on Nov. 23 (Engle), 1 at Piney Run on Nov. 25 (Ringler), and 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 28 (Osenton). Fifty **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak). **Solitary Sandpipers** totaled 20 at Harney Road Pond on Aug. 6 (Miller). Lone Solitaries were at Triadelphia on Oct. 18 (Chestem), at Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan), at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman), and at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 25 (Bonham). Harry Armistead discovered a **Willet** at Hooper Island on Aug. 8. Martha Chestem found a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Triadelphia on Oct. 18, and Steve Simon checked off another at Loch Raven on Oct. 27.

Curlews, Godwits, Turnstones. Doug Lister observed 16 **Upland Sandpipers** at PRNAS on Aug. 12, and L. T. Short found 1 at Greensboro on Aug. 13. Others were single sightings at Easton Airport on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 29 (Davidson, Wierenga), at Easton on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), and flying over Assateague on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga). Nice sightings of **Whimbrels** were made this season with 4 near Goldsboro on Aug. 7 (Atkinson), and 16 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was discovered at Piney Run, for the first State upland record, Nov. 3-7 (Neilson+). **Marbled Godwits** were present at Assateague with 2 on Aug. 8 and 1 there on Aug. 13-15 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien). Harry Armistead noted 4 **Ruddy Turnstones** at Hooper Island on Aug. 8.

Calidrine Sandpipers. **Red Knots**, always nice to find, were at Ocean City with 45 on Oct. 9 (Hoffman). Another was at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Armisteads). **Sanderlings** included 1 way inland at Mt. Airy, Carroll County on Sept. 4 (Miller), 5 in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak), and 2000 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** sightings included 34 near Grasonville on Aug. 9 (Reese), 300 at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), 17 at Harney Road Pond on Sept. 19 (P. O'Brien), and 150 in DC the same day (Czaplak). Blackwater hosted **Western Sandpipers** with 8 on Sept. 1 and 4 on Nov. 7 (Armisteads). Ten Westerns were in DC on Sept. 19 (Czaplak) and 5 were at Back River on Nov. 7 (Scarpulla). Mark Hoffman found groups of 150 and 100 **Least Sandpipers** at Assateague on Aug. 15, and 250 there on Aug. 28, as well as 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** on Aug. 15 and 1 there on Oct. 2. Harney Road Pond, near Emmitsburg, also hosted White-rumps with 4 to 5 birds from Sept. 2 to Sept. 19, and

1 on Sept. 26 (P. O'Brien). Another was in DC, Sept. 18—Oct. 2 (Janni), and 7 White-rumpeds were at Piney Run, Nov. 3-7, with the last one there on Nov. 14 (Ringler). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was also at Harney Road Pond from Sept. 2 (P. O'Brien, Miller) to Sept. 19 (Bjerke), 2 were at North Branch on Sept. 17 (Twigg), and 3 were in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak, Janni). **Pectoral Sandpipers** included 30 near Pocomoke City on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), 32 at Loch Raven on Sept. 15 (Simon), 28 at Harney Road Pond on Sept. 16 (P. O'Brien), over 100 in the DC hydrilla on Sept. 19-20 (Czaplak, Janni), 22 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 21 (Bonham), 4 at Courthouse Point WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler, Stasz), 2 at West Ocean City on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), 2 at Piney Run on Nov. 11 (Ringler), and 1 at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 12 (Bonham). Four **Purple Sandpipers** were reported at Ocean City on Oct. 30 (Tom Harten). **Dunlins** included 2 juveniles in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak), 2 at Tydings Island on Oct. 12 (Webb), 150 in DC on Oct. 19 (Janni), 55 at Blackwater on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead+), and 1 at Piney Run, Nov. 3-14 (Ringler). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were at Cambridge on Aug. 15 (Osenton, Gough), 1 was at Blackwater on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), 1 was at Harney Road Pond from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6 (Miller), 12 were in DC on Sept. 18 with 1 staying through Oct. 2 (Janni), and 2 were at the Griffin Road Ponds, Worcester County on Oct. 2 (Hoffman). **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** also visited the Harney Road Pond with 2 on Aug. 28 (Miller), and 3 on Aug. 31, down to 1 on Sept. 8 (P. O'Brien). Another was at the Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Aug 29-31 (Walbeck+), 2 were at Dayton on Sept. 4 (Osenton+), and 1 was at North Branch on Sept. 5 (Twigg).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcocks, Phalaropes. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Harney Road Pond from Aug. 21 (Miller) to Sept. 6, with the high of 6 on Aug. 31 (P. O'Brien). Also, 25 were at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), and 3 at Assateague on Oct. 2 (Hoffman). **Long-billed Dowitchers** included 1 at West Ocean City pond on Aug. 13 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien+), 15 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), and 1 at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Armisteads). A **Common Snipe** was at Liberty Lake, Baltimore\Carroll counties on Aug. 8 (Stasz+), at Harney Road Pond on Aug. 14 (Miller), and at Blackwater on Aug. 15 (Pisano). Others were 2 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), 1 at West Ocean City on Sept. 6 (Hoffman), and 14 at Lilypons on Nov. 11 (Roger Anderson). An **American Woodcock** was at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman). Dave Czaplak noted a juvenile **Wilson's Phalarope** in DC on Oct. 16, and 1 was there on Oct. 22 (Janni). Popular Harney Road Pond hosted a **Red-necked Phalarope** Aug. 31—Sept. 4 (P. O'Brien). On Sept. 19, a **Red Phalarope**, first seen in DC, somehow decided to fly into Prince George's County for possibly the first record there (Janni, Czaplak, Todd, Gough).

Gulls. About 2000 **Laughing Gulls** were roosting at dusk at Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Hoffman). Others of note were 319 at Route 99 and Woodstock Road in Howard County on Aug. 22 (Solem, Osenton), 30 at Piney Run on Oct. 24 (Ringler), 400 at Easton on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), 1600 at Trappe on Nov. 3 (Reese), 1 adult near Lilypons on Nov. 14 (Czaplak), 4 near Lilypons on Nov. 18 (Janni), 2 at the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico), 1 in DC on Nov. 27 (Gough), and 40 at Easton on Nov. 29 (Reese). A second-winter **Franklin's Gull** was at DC on Oct. 3 (Janni). **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 3 at Choptank on Aug. 25 (Engle), 1 at Loch Raven on Nov. 24 (Simon), 34 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 28 (Osenton), and 8 at Centennial the same day (Osenton, Ott). An all white adult **Ring-billed Gull** was at Ocean City on Oct. 9 (Ringler+), and high counts for the Ring-billed were 1250 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armisteads), and 3000 at Easton on Nov. 29 (Reese). An adult **California Gull** was at the Tidal Basin for the second DC record on Oct. 31 (Czaplak). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were again numerous including an adult at Tilghman Island on Aug. 29, Oct. 10, and Nov. 7 (Reese), 1 at Assateague on Sept. 18 and Sept. 25 (Hoffman), 1 adult

at Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Howe, Gordon) and Nov. 11 (Magnusson), 1 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga), 4 adults in DC on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 1 at Centennial on Nov. 12 (Bockstie), 1 near Lilypons on Nov. 14 (Czaplak), and 1 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 27 (Webb, Dave Zilkowski). On August 6th, Kyle Rambo counted 410 **Great Black-backed Gulls** on the golf course at PRNAS during a storm, 115 were tallied throughout southern Dorchester on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), 250 were observed roosting at dusk at Ocean City on Aug. 21 (Hoffman), and 1 was noted in Howard County off Route 99 and Woodstock Road on Oct. 19 (Ott, Solem).

Terns, Skimmers. An immature **Gull-billed Tern** was at Ocean City on Oct. 9 (Ringler+). Reports for **Caspian Terns** included 2 at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), 49 at Blackwater on Aug. 15 (Pisano), 5 at Loch Raven on Sept. 3 (Simon), 3 at Triadelphia on Sept. 4 (Osenton), 1 at Seneca on Sept. 8 (Dobbins), 65 at Assateague on Sept. 18 (Hoffman), 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 4 (Simon), 2 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), and 3 the same day at Blackwater (H. Armistead+). Harry Armistead checked off 135 **Royal Terns** throughout southern Dorchester County on Aug. 8. Others were 1 at Frederickstown on Oct. 13 and 5 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), an immature at Vienna on Nov. 2 (Dyke), 1 at Ocean City on Nov. 11 (Lawler), and 2 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 13 (Ringler, Blom). At least 4 **Sandwich Terns** were at Point Lookout on Aug. 15 (Stasz+). Others were 1 at Assateague on Aug 15 and 3 there on Aug. 20 (Hoffman), and 2 at PRNAS on Sept. 6 (Rambo). **Common Terns** were also noted with 11 in DC on Sept. 5 (Janni), 1 at Harney Road Pond on Sept. 6 (Miller), 3 at Matapeake on Sept. 12 (Ringler+), 1 at Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+), 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10 (Reese), 2 at Loch Raven on Oct. 14 (Simon), 2 at the mouth of the Choptank River on Oct. 24 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Hains Point on Oct. 31 (Czaplak). **Forster's Terns** were 2 at Loch Raven on Aug. 18 (Wheeler), 1 winter plumage bird at Brighton Dam in Howard County on Sept. 3 (Solem+), 1 at Centennial on Sept. 3 (Farrell), 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 9 (Simon), 165 at Blackwater on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead+), 76 at DC on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 6 at Vienna on Nov. 2 (Dyke), 150 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 7 (DuMont), 4 at Havre de Grace on Nov. 20 (Ringler+), and 15 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 21 (Reese). Ethel Engle found 2 **Least Terns** at Choptank on Aug. 24-25. There were quite a few sightings of the **Black Tern** with 1 at Gum Swamp on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), 4 at Assateague the same day (Hoffman, M. O'Brien), 1 at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Farrell, Wilkinson), 2 at Triadelphia on Sept. 4 (Chestem), 1 at Loch Raven on Sept. 3 (Simon), the high of 7 in DC on Sept. 5 (Czaplak, Janni), 1 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 5 (Jeff Effinger), 1 at Assateague on Sept. 6 (Hoffman), 2 at Seneca on Sept. 8 (Dobbins), 1 at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt), and 1 at DC on Oct. 8 (Todd). Carolyn Mills discovered 2 **Black Skimmers** on a sandbar at Miles River in Talbot County on Aug. 1st, 1 was at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), and 70 were at Ocean City on Oct. 9 (Hoffman).

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Aug. 28 (Osenton), and other singles were at Assateague on Sept. 12 (Hoffman, Davidson, Wierenga), at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Sept. 29 (Dyke), and near Lewistown on Oct. 2 (Miller). A migrant **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was also checked off on Aug. 28, only this time at Assateague (Hoffman). Five Yellow-billeds were spotted at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center on Oct. 16 (Saunders), and 1 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Howe, Gordon). Jim Wilkinson spied a **Short-eared Owl** flying high near Dundalk on Oct. 26, and one was at UMCf on Nov. 4 (Ott, Chestem). Cliff Fairweather reported a **Snowy Owl** at Sherwood on Nov. 28. Dave Brinker banded **Northern Saw-whet Owls** again at Assateague with 63 netted this season, compared to 29 in 1992 and 65 in 1991. High tallies for **Common Nighthawks** began with 78 flying over Colesville on Aug. 22

(Saunders), 88 in Bel Air over a 2-hour period on Aug. 25 (Webb), 100 over Sykesville on Sept. 2 (Kathy Harden), about 100 at Bryans Road, Charles County on Sept. 5 (Nistico), at least 150 in DC on Sept. 7 (Don Sweig), and at least 200 flying over Columbia on Sept. 8 (Southworths). One Common Nighthawk was at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead+), and another at PWRC on Oct. 13 (Osenton). Two **Chuck-will's-widows** were singing at dawn on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga), and another was providing early morning entertainment at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman). A **Whip-poor-will** was noted at Federalsburg on Sept. 27 (Glime), and 250 **Chimney Swifts** were checked off at Centennial on Sept. 23 (Atkinson).

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began with 2 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman), and later sightings were 1 at UMCF on Oct. 3 (Atkinson), and 1 at a feeder in Laurel on Oct. 9 (Howe). A **Rufous Hummingbird** in Takoma Park, at the same location one was seen five years ago, was noted on Oct. 23 (Sam Pancake) and seen at least through Nov. 17 (Dobbins). There were other Rufous reports as well, with 1 at the feeder of Doug Bruce in Pocomoke City on Oct. 30 (Pitney), and 1 at Locust Point near Elkton from Oct. 31 (Gary Griffith) into December. Two migrant **Belted Kingfishers** were at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Bellevue on Aug. 14 and an adult and an immature were there on Sept. 12 (Armisteads+). An immature was noted at Assateague on Sept. 11 and Oct. 11 (Hoffman), a Red-headed was at Westover on Nov. 4 (Reese), and at least 5 adults, with at least 2 immatures, were at Black Hill Park on Nov. 6 (Saunders). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were found on Assateague with 1 on Oct. 16, 2 on Oct. 23, and 1 on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). An extraordinarily early **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported at Denton on Aug. 28 (Nuttle). Others included 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 7 (Zeichner), 1 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 21 (Weesner), and 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24. Norm Saunders found 4 Yellow-bellieds at Sycamore Landing on Sept. 25 and 15 **Northern Flickers** at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on Oct. 16. At least 25 flickers in one group, plus 4 others, were tallied at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman). At least 5 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, including 2 females, were observed in a spirited territorial dispute at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth).

Flycatchers. An elusive **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Rocky Ridge on Aug. 14 (Miller). A migrant **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was identified at Bellevue on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead+). At least a dozen pewees were at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth), 15 at UMCF on Sept. 6 (Atkinson), an amazing 100+ at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese, Effinger), 1 feeding fledged young at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 13 (Weesner), and later single sightings at Pennyfield on Oct. 21 (Bonham), and in DC on Oct. 22 (Czaplak). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at UMCF on Aug. 14 (Atkinson), and at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 26 (Janni). Yellow-bellieds were noted at Irvine until Sept. 28 (Ross), and 1 was banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 1. **Acadian Flycatchers** included 1 at Cap Stine Road, Frederick County on Sept. 26 (Miller), and the last one banded at Adventure on Oct. 3. Interesting **Least Flycatchers** were 1 at Salisbury on Aug. 21 (Dyke), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 5 (Davis), and the last 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25. Single **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Bellevue on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead), and at UMCF on Sept. 26 (Atkinson). Mark Hoffman checked off 3 **Eastern Kingbirds** at South Point Farms in Worcester County on Sept. 26.

Swallows. There were 140 **Purple Martins** at Liberty Lake on Aug. 10 (Ringler), and a few lingered a bit with 2 at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead), and 5 at Centennial on Sept. 20 (Farrell). Jan Reese noted a large movement of **Tree Swallows** with 1500 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10; around 20,000 moved through Assateague on

Oct. 12 (Hoffman). The last Tree Swallows were 5 at North Branch on Nov. 1 (Twigg), 40 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead, P. J. Giangulio), 2600 at Assateague on Nov. 11 (Hoffman), and 1 at Bellevue on Nov. 13 (G. Armistead). **Late Bank Swallows** included 2 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico, Peters), several at Courthouse Point WMA on Sept. 18 (Blom, Ringler), and 4 at Bellevue on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead). An early migrant **Cliff Swallow** was at UMCF on Aug. 1 (Atkinson). Others of interest were 1 near Florence on Sept. 18 (Osenton), 1 at Courthouse Point WMA on Sept. 18 (Ringler), 3 in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak), and 1 at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman). Mark Hoffman reported a **Barn Swallow** roost of about 1000 birds at West Ocean City on Aug. 20. Later sightings included 1 at Centennial on Oct. 3 (Ott), 2 at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on Oct. 9 (Bonham), 1 at Tydings Island on Oct. 12 (Webb), 1 at Lake Frank in Rockville on Oct. 23 (Bob Augustine), and 1 at North Branch on Nov. 30 (Twigg).

Corvids, Parids, Nuthatches, Creeper. Thirty-five **Blue Jays** were counted at Blackwater on Sept. 25, and 185 **Fish Crows** were tallied at Bellevue on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+). Other large counts for Fish Crows were 1500+ at Westover on Nov. 4 (Reese), and 310 at Golden Hill on Oct. 30 (Armisteads). Dave Weesner noted 2 **Common Ravens** at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 6. Migrant **Tufted Titmice** included 1 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 11 (Reese, Effinger, Steve Ford), and the first fall titmouse for Mark Hoffman at Assateague, an unusual location for this species, on Oct. 16. There was a very good fall flight of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and they were early as well, with singles at Denton on Aug. 3 (Nuttie), at Tilghman Island on Aug. 15 and Bozman on Aug. 17 (Reese), at Assateague on Aug. 21 (Hoffman), at Town Hill on Aug. 23 (Paulus), near North East on Aug. 24 (Reese), in Hagerstown on Aug. 29 (Cam & Norma Lewis), at UMCF on Aug. 29 (Atkinson), and at Pylesville on Aug. 29 (Frys). Red-breasted were at Greenbelt Park from mid-September through October (Davis), and the high was 12 at Assateague, in one small tree, on Nov. 20 (Southworths). A **Brown Creeper** in Frederick County at the intersections of Hamburg and Fishing Creek Roads on Aug. 27 (Miller) may have been a local breeder.

Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. A **Rock Wren** at Assateague, discovered by Mark Hoffman on Oct. 11, and the first for Maryland, caused some excitement for a few days as it was seen by several birders until Oct. 14. A **Carolina Wren** was noted at a feeder in Oakland, Garrett County on Nov. 28 (Skipper). A nice fall flight of **Winter Wrens** occurred this year including 1 at Wolfsville on Sept. 25 (Miller), and 12 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). **Sedge Wrens**, always nice finds, included 1 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), and 1 on Oct. 12, 4 on Oct. 16, and 6 on Oct. 23 at Assateague (Hoffman). A **Marsh Wren** frequented Lilypons from Sept. 25 to Nov. 11 (Miller+). Other migrants were 1 at Plum Tree Path in Howard County on Sept. 26 (Farrell, Solem), 3 at UMCF on Sept. 29—Oct. 3 (Atkinson), 1 at Cherry Creek on Oct. 13 (Pope), 1 at Ashton on Oct. 20 (Rick Sussman), and 1 at Laurel on Oct. 24 (Osenton). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were early with 1 at Denton on Sept. 12 (Nuttie), and 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25. High counts were 50 at PRNAS on Oct. 23 (Rambo), 75+ at Tilghman Island on Oct. 23 (Reese), and 45 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger). Others were 20 at Centennial on Oct. 15 (Ott), and 25 throughout Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). Jan Reese tallied 18 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 8. The last Blue-gray was banded at Cherry Creek Banding Station on Sept. 18, 20 were at Point Lookout the same day (Nistico, Peters), and single reports were at Blackwater on Sept. 25 (H. Armistead), at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 6 (Ott), at Buckeystown on Oct. 12 (Miller), and the latest migrant at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman).

Thrushes, Mimids. Rick Blom and Bob Ringler were treated to 50 **Eastern Bluebirds**, along with several House Finches, in a single tree that resembled an early Christmas tree, on Nov. 13 at Eastern Neck. George Armistead located 2 **Veeries** at Bellevue on Aug. 22, and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** included 1 at Waterloo Park on Sept. 22 (Wilkinson), 1 at Wolfsville on Sept. 25 (Miller), 2 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), and 1 at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt). The first **Swainson's Thrush** banded at Adventure was on Aug. 23. It was a good fall for **Hermit Thrushes**, especially on the Eastern Shore, and 2 arrived early at Denton on Sept. 13 (Fletcher). The arrival date at Irvine was Oct. 1 (Ross), and another was near Boonsboro the same day (Weesner). Dave Czaplak scored 18 in DC on Oct. 19. **Wood Thrushes** were not in a hurry to leave with 1 in DC on Oct. 18 (Larry Gardella), 1 at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary on Oct. 31 (Peter Hanan), and 1 at Waterloo Park on Nov. 11 (Wilkinson). Highs for **American Robins** were 300+ at Cherry Creek on Sept. 22 (Pope, Skipper), 450 at Eldersburg on Oct. 27 (Ringler), 535 at Rock Creek Park on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 560 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), and 2070 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead, P. J. Giangliulio). Quite a few **Gray Catbirds** were moving past Assateague on Sept. 5 with sightings totaling 160 birds (Hoffman). Eight **Northern Mockingbirds** were tallied at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman), and 1 was at Cherry Creek on Oct. 11 (Pope, Skipper).

Pipits, Waxwings, Vireos. The first **American Pipit** was at UMCf on Sept. 25 (Atkinson). Others were 25 in Rock Creek Park on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 34 at PWRC on Nov. 9 (Osenton), and 107 at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Peter Vankovich). **Cedar Waxwings** of note were 280 in southeast Frederick County on Oct. 31 (Czaplak), and 175 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead, P. J. Giangliulio). The last **White-eyed Vireo** banded at Adventure was on Oct. 19, and 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman). Linger **Solitary Vireos** were noted on Oct. 23 with 6 at Rock Creek Park (Czaplak), and 4 at Seneca Creek SP (Saunders). Another Solitary was at Centennial on Oct. 28 (Farrell). **Yellow-throated Vireos** included 3 migrants at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Czaplak), 1 at Assateague, where they are rare, on Sept. 19 (Hoffman), 1 at Loch Raven on Sept. 20 (Wheeler), and 1 at Seneca the same day (Marie Plante). **Philadelphia Vireos** were numerous, mostly single sightings, at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger), at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Davidson, Wierenga), at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico), at the Middle Patuxent River, Eden Brook on Sept. 19 (Farrell, Osenton, Solem), at Hughes Hollow the same day (Rosenberg), at Gambrill SP on Sept. 22 (Miller), and at Rock Creek Park, Sept. 23 (Dobbins). Two **Philadelphias** were at Assateague on Sept. 13 and 1 was there on Sept. 25 (Hoffman); 4 were banded at Cherry Creek with the first on Sept. 13 and the last on Sept. 25. Others were single sightings at Plum Tree Path on Sept. 25 (Ott), and in DC on Sept. 29 (Mackiernan) and Oct. 4 (Czaplak). Large counts for **Red-eyed Vireos** were 26 in Rock Creek Park on Aug. 15 (Czaplak), 45 at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), and over 100 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger). A very late Red-eyed was at Piney Run on Oct. 31 (Ringler).

Dendroica Warblers. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Bellevue on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead+). A **Brewster's Warbler**, one of the rare hybrids, was located this season at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 23 (Janni), and another at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 19 (Howe, Gordon, Rosenberg). Two **Golden-winged Warblers** were banded at Cherry Creek, on Aug. 16 and Aug. 18. Others included 1 at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), an immature at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), 1 at Point Lookout on Sept. 11 (Mary Gustafson), 1 in DC on Sept. 11 and Sept. 13 (B. Cooper, M. Milton), and 1 at Assateague on Sept. 19 (Hoffman). The last **Tennessee Warbler** was at Centennial on Oct. 28 (Farrell). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was early at Rock

Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Gough, Janni), and another was near Ellicott City on Sept. 20 (Ott). One was banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 4, and an Orange-crowned was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman). **Nashville Warblers** were an adult at Town Hill on Aug. 4 (Paulus), possibly a local breeder, the first migrant at Fishing Creek Road, Frederick County on Aug. 27 (Miller), 3 to 4 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 19 (Howe), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 17 (Davis), and 1 near Westminster on Oct. 24 (Ringler). Two early migrant **Yellow Warblers** were at Bellevue on Aug. 1 (Armisteads), and 2 Yellows were in DC on Oct. 16 (Czaplak). The best count for **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was 12 at UMCf on Sept. 6 (Atkinson), and a **Magnolia Warbler** running a bit late was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak). The first **Cape May Warbler** banded at Cherry Creek was on Aug. 27, with the high there of 18 banded on Sept. 24. Harry Armistead checked off his first Cape May of the season at Bellevue on Sept. 2, and Dave Czaplak tallied a nice count of 10 in DC on Oct. 4. An early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), 12 were totaled at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), and 1 was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak). The first **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 1 at Assateague on Aug. 28-29 (Hoffman), 1 at Bellevue on Sept. 2 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 11 (Reese, Effinger, Steve Ford). Mark Hoffman listed three groups of Yellow-rumps totaling 400 birds at Assateague on Oct. 24. Reese found a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 22 (Reese), Czaplak reported the high of 18 on Sept. 19 at Rock Creek Park where he also noted 1 on Oct. 23. Stauffer Miller reported a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Hamburg Road, Frederick County on Aug. 3 and Jim Paulus listed an adult at Town Hill on Aug. 4, both possibly local breeders. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Aug. 26 (Zeichner), 2 were at Blackwater on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), and 2 were noted at Assateague on Sept. 26 (Hoffman). **Pine Warblers** included a total of 72 throughout Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), 1 in Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak), and 1 at Centennial on Oct. 2 (Farrell). Late **Prairie Warblers** were 8 at Assateague on Oct. 24 and 1 near Berlin on Nov. 6 (Hoffman), and 1 at Salisbury on Nov. 19 (Brodericks). **Palm Warblers** were also in a hurry with 3 at Assateague on Sept. 6 (Hoffman). Others included 10 "western" race Palms banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25, 8 Palms at UMCf on Oct. 8 (Atkinson), a loose flock of at least 60 at Assateague on Oct. 5 (Dyke), and 1 at PWRC on Oct. 27 (Osenton). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was extraordinary in DC on Aug. 23 (Janni), and another was noted at Assateague on Oct. 18 (Hoffman). Mary Gustafson reported a **Cerulean Warbler** singing on territory in Prince George's County on Aug. 21. An immature was at UMCf on Sept. 11 (Atkinson), and another Cerulean was at Centennial on Sept. 28 (Farrell).

Other Warblers. An immature female **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Bellevue on Aug. 1 (Armisteads). Nine Black-and-whites were at Assateague on Aug. 8th, 44 were added up there on Sept. 5, and 1 was there on Oct. 18 (Hoffman). Three early migrant **American Redstarts** were at Bellevue on Aug. 1 (Armisteads), and another was at Owen Brown, Columbia on Aug. 6 (Farrell). Several groups of migrating Redstarts totaling 105 birds were at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), over 75 were at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger), and 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). **Prothonotary Warblers** included 1 at Assateague on Sept. 11 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien, J.O'Brien), and 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir the same day (Saunders). Solitary **Worm-eating Warblers** were at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), Bellevue on Aug. 22 (Armisteads), Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), and at Assateague on Sept. 19 (Hoffman). The last Worm-eating Warbler banded at Adventure was on Sept. 22. Mark Hoffman located an **Ovenbird** at Assateague on Aug. 8, and late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were 1 at Port Tobacco on Sept. 12 (Nistico), and 1 at Greensboro on Sept. 20 (Hewitt). **Connecticut Warblers** were numerous this season including early

single sightings at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 (Czaplak, Janni). Others were 1 in DC on Sept. 11 (Barry Cooper), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 12 (Dobbins), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 13th, 2 at DC on Sept. 14 (Czaplak), 1 at Gwynn Acres Path, Howard County on Sept. 14 (Ott+), an immature near UMCF on Sept. 15 (Atkinson), a female at Eden Brook on Sept. 19 (Osenton, Farrell, Solem), an immature at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke), 1 at Monrovia Marsh on Sept. 20 (Miller), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 22, 1 at Assateague on Sept. 26 (Hoffman), and 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 26 (Janni). A late Connecticut was reported at Oxon Hill on Oct. 13 (Dobbins). **Mourning Warblers** included 2 banded at Adventure on Aug. 24 and Sept. 6, another at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 31 (Janni), 1 at Fran Uhler Natural Area in Anne Arundel County on Sept. 4 (Czaplak), an immature female at UMCF on Sept. 4 (Atkinson), 1 off Route 99 and Woodstock Road in Howard County on Sept. 13 (Ott), and another, late, in DC on Oct. 18 (Larry Gardella). Mark Hoffman found several groups of **Common Yellowthroats** totaling 63 at Assateague on Sept. 5, and an adult male **Hooded Warbler** there on Sept. 5 (Hoffman). A Hooded was at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak), and the last one was banded at Adventure on Sept. 20. **Wilson's Warblers** were first seen in Frederick on Aug. 25 (Miller), the first one banded at Cherry Creek was on Aug. 25, 1 was at Bellevue on Sept. 2 (H. Armistead), and 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman). Early **Canada Warblers** were 1 banded at PWRC on Aug. 1 (Danny Bystrak), and 1 at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman). Walbeck found a late Canada at Whitehall Beach on Oct. 9. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in DC on Oct. 5 (Czaplak).

Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches. **Summer Tanager** sightings were a male at UMCF on Sept. 12 (Atkinson), 1 bird near Ellicott City on Sept. 13 and Sept. 20 (Ott), and a female at Salisbury on Oct. 7 (Lawler). An immature **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Town Hill on Aug. 4 (Paulus), and others were: over 25 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger), 17 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on Oct. 16 (Saunders), and 1 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak). A **Blue Grosbeak** was near Pylesville on Sept. 23 (L. Fry), and another was in DC on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan). Bob Ringler noted an **Indigo Bunting** near Westminster on Oct. 17, and another was off Route 99 and Woodstock Road in Howard County on Oct. 26 (Ott). **Dickcissels** were reported this season with a fly-over at Assateague on Sept. 12 and another on Sept. 13 (Davidson, Wierenga). Helen Bodine found an immature female on Oct. 1 that hit a window near Cockeysville (Shirley Geddes), and another Dickcissel was at Assateague on Oct. 22 and 24 (Hoffman).

Sparrows. Barry Cooper reported 25 **American Tree Sparrows** at Lilypons on Nov. 27, and Dave Czaplak counted 37 **Chipping Sparrows** at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23. Solo **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman), and Oct. 1 (Dyke). Mark Hoffman found a **Vesper Sparrow** at Assateague on Oct. 23 and an immature **Lark Sparrow** there on Sept. 5. An immature Lark Sparrow was also noted at Assateague on Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 19 (Dyke, Hoffman). Over 60 **Savannah Sparrows** were tallied at UMCF on Oct. 8 (Atkinson+), and Jan Reese notched 35 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 21. An immature **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at UMCF on Sept. 6 (Atkinson), and 1 bird was near Frederick on Oct. 21 (Miller). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was at a pond north of Frederick for the second county record, Oct. 21-27 (Miller). **Song Sparrows** included the high count of 95 for Howard County at UMCF on Oct. 8 (Atkinson), and 42 migrating at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23 (Czaplak). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were 4 banded for the season at Adventure, the first one on Sept. 6, single birds at Salisbury on Sept. 29 and Oct. 3 (Dyke), 3 at UMCF on Oct. 3 (Scott Atkinson), 1 at Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan), 1 near Westminster the same day (Ringler), 1 at the Middle Patuxent River at Kindler in Howard County on Oct. 29

(Solem), 2 at PRNAS on Oct. 29 (Rambo), 1 at Ashton on Nov. 13 (Rick Sussman), and 1 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 25 (Bonham). Dave Czaplak checked off 67 **Swamp Sparrows** at Lilypons on Oct. 12, and Bonnie Ott tallied 55 at Plum Tree Path on Oct. 25. **White-crowned Sparrows** included 1 at Monrovia Marsh on Sept. 20 (Miller), the first one banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24, 2 at UMCF on Oct. 2 (Ott), an immature at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), 1 banded at Irvine on Oct. 6, and a total of 23, all immature, at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman).

Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Myers Station, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 11 (Davis), 1 was at Spesutia Island, Harford County on Sept. 21 (Webb), 2 were at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 21 (Weesner), 1 was at Delmar, Wicomico County on Sept. 21 (Simone Jenion), and another was at Sandy Point on Sept. 23 (Lola Oberman). **Lapland Longspurs** began with 1 at Antietam in Washington County on Nov. 14 (Czaplak), and 8 at New Design Road near Lilypons on Nov. 27 (Barry Cooper). The first **Snow Buntings** were 6 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Dyke), 2 at Piney Run on Nov. 3-4 (Ringler+), 1 at Rocky Gap SP on Nov. 14 (Twigg), 2 near Lilypons on Nov. 27 (Barry Cooper), 24 at Sandy Point on Nov. 27 (Paul Mergatroyd), and an adult male in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 28 (Stasz, Iliff).

Icterines. Five **Bobolinks** were at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville on Aug. 9 (Reese), hundreds were heard flying over Assateague at night on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 15 (Hoffman), and 2 were at UMCF on Oct. 17 (Ott). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was migrating through Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak), and 1 was at Hains Point on Oct. 30 and Nov. 2 (Czaplak, Janni). David Wallace sorted out a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in a flock of Red-wingeds in Frederick on Oct. 28, and an immature, for about the fourth DC record, was identified in a flock of grackles at Rock Creek Park on Nov. 20 (Czaplak). Another Yellow-headed was near Blackwater on Nov. 26 (Janni). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 1 at Cherry Creek on Oct. 6 (Pope, Skipper), 5 at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 11 (Wilkinson), 50 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 24 (Bonham), and 14 at PWRC on Oct. 18 (Osenton). Jan Reese noted 3 **Boat-tailed Grackles** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 29 and 6 there on Sept. 5, as well as over 15,000 **Common Grackles** flying over Linkwood, Dorchester County on Oct. 16. An **Orchard Oriole** was at Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hoffman), and another was at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Wilkinson). **Northern Orioles** included 10 at UMCF on Aug. 14 (Atkinson), 23 at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), 33 at Tilghman the same day (Reese), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), an immature male in east Columbia on Nov. 22 (M.J. Betts), and a male and a female in Cecil County on Nov. 27 (Dave Zialkowski).

Cardueline Finches. The fall finch flight was much better than in recent years. A **Purple Finch** was at Liberty Lake on Sept. 13 (Ringler), another was at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 19 (Howe, Gordon, Rosenberg), and 70 were flying over Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23 (Janni, Czaplak). Mark Hoffman estimated 300 **House Finches** in the Berlin area on Nov. 6, and Jim Paulus discovered a **Red Crossbill** at Town Hill on Sept. 2. A sign of things to come was the **Common Redpoll** at Blackwater on Nov. 9 (Maane). Two redpolls were at Oakland on Nov. 13 (Skipper). **Pine Siskins** were 1 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), 1 at a feeder in Hagerstown on Oct. 7 (Cam & Norma Lewis), 12 at Loch Raven on Oct. 14 (Simon), and approximately 80 in Salisbury on Nov. 14 (Brodericks). Reese found 12 **American Goldfinches**, including a female collecting nesting material, at Tilghman Island on Aug. 15, and 200 were counted at Plum Tree Path on Sept. 26 (Farrell, Solem). **Evening Grosbeaks** included a female reported to Lola Oberman to be at a feeder in Prince George's County on Sept. 18, 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10 (Reese), a male at PWRC on Oct. 13 (Howe), 30 at Phoenix on Oct. 15

(Simon), a male fly-over at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), 15 near Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan), 30 near Westminster on Oct. 24 (Ringler), 75 on a feeder in Hagerstown on Oct. 26 (Cam & Norma Lewis), 55 at Wye Island on Oct. 26 (Reese), and 25 in DC on Nov. 1 (Czaplak).

Escapes. Two **Bananaquits** were reported at a birdbath in Rockville on Aug. 31 with 1 there on Sept. 1 (Jim Weixel). Two **Blue-crowned Conures** (Quaker Parakeets) were reported at McDaniel on Aug. 8 (Betsy Miller), and 2 were seen at Tilghman Island from Aug. 15 through Sept. 12 (Reese).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia Maryland 21046

Received 30 May 1995

ALBINISTIC BLUE JAY IN CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

RICHARD JULE HOLLIS

On 25 December 1993, my family and I received an avian present in the form of a brief sighting of an albinistic Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) on Stone Road near Pleasant Valley in Carroll County, Maryland.

I had a opportunity to study the bird in detail on the morning of 29 December at the feeders of my grandmother, Mrs. Ora Keefer. This location was only a few hundred meters from the first sighting. Mrs. Keefer regularly feeds birds and had not previously noted such an unusual visitor prior to late December of 1993. Mrs. Keefer last saw this Blue Jay on 9 January 1994.

The following description is edited from my notes which were taken while watching the bird at distances of 3 to 10 meters. I used 7x35 binoculars and my spotting scope as well as unassisted viewing. On both occasions the sky was overcast.

In size and shape the albinistic jay was identical to normally colored jays. Its behavior was similar to the other jays. I am tempted to say that it appeared more cautious or shy than the others, but this is an extremely subjective conclusion based on a very short set of observations.

The eye, bill, and legs were black. The background color of the bird, which appeared gray at first glance, was light sandy brown or very pale gray. The top of the head, including the crest, and the mantle were sandy brown. The wings, tail, lower back, and breast were gray. The feathers that are white on normal Blue Jays (wing bar, face, and secondary tips) were also white on this bird, contrasting with the sandy or gray coloration. No contrast was noted between the tips of the outer tail feathers and the rest of the tail. A faint light-brown barring was noted on the wing and tail feathers. The markings about the face, the necklace, and the thin stripe through the eye, and the heavier mark above the bill were dark chocolate brown.

Birds with unusual plumage are worth noting as they allow us to track individuals, at least for short time periods.

3351 Lower West Branch Rd., Iowa City, Iowa 52245

Received 24 February 1995

OBSERVATION OF A GRAY SQUIRREL EATING AN ADULT CARDINAL

JOANNE K. SOLEM

When I returned to the house in mid afternoon of 15 February 1994, my husband, Bob, mentioned that a male Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) had hit a dinette window. It lay about one meter from the house on top of the icy snow cover. From the angle of the head, the cardinal appeared to have broken its neck. Several hawks had become intermittent visitors to the yard during this severe winter, so I left the dead bird hoping a hawk would find it. It was not surprising, therefore, when Bob looked out about 5:00 p.m. and noted that the cardinal was gone. I could see that there were about a dozen small red-tipped gray feathers lying scattered on the snow. Because of the thick ice covering the snow, there were neither footprints nor wingprints to provide a clue as to what had removed the dead cardinal.

About 5:30 p.m. I happened to glance out the kitchen window, which also faces the back yard, just as a small dark object drifted across the patio and settled on it. To my naked eye it looked like a scorched piece of paper that might have escaped from a neighboring chimney. With binoculars I could see that it was, instead, a dark, fluffy feather. I glanced up seeking the source. Sitting on a branch six meters up in a beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) was a gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). It held in its front paws the dead cardinal which it was eating. No attempt had been made to remove the large bright red feathers, so the bird was easily identifiable. I watched the squirrel for a few minutes, but, because we were on our way out, I did not wait to see how long it fed on the bird.

The following morning I checked beneath the tree where the squirrel had been sitting. A pile of downy red-tinged gray feathers had drifted to the base of a nearby tree, and a few downy feathers were trapped on the branches of understory shrubs, but there was no sign of a carcass or of any of the large red feathers.

The gray squirrel is considered to be mainly vegetarian in its food choices, but Paradiso (1969) says they will eat an occasional bird's egg or small bird. Diagrams in Martin et al. (1961) show that 98% of the winter diet of gray squirrels is derived from plants. Insect foods make up most of the remainder. The statement is made that some individuals eat birds' eggs or nestlings on occasion.

Undoubtedly, gray squirrels are highly opportunistic, especially under weather conditions that make it difficult to locate food. After this observation, I will no longer assume that small piles of feathers in wooded areas indicate the remains of a meal by a bird of prey or one of the more frequently observed mammalian predators.

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10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723

Received 27 March 1994

WINTER, DECEMBER 1, 1993 - FEBRUARY 28, 1994

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

This season was quite a change from the relatively mild winters of recent years. Temperatures were well below normal, and ice and ice storms became the norm. Almost all inland water froze by mid-January and large portions of the Bay were iced by February. Some species were hit hard, and large numbers of waterfowl headed farther south. The invasion of northern rarities, like the large numbers of Red-necked Grebes and Common Redpolls, was outstanding, and a few new State species records were established.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Janet Anderson, Roger Anderson, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, David Czaplak, Patty Craig, Lynn Davidson, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Frederick Fallon, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Paul Fritz, Jean & Larry Fry, Inez Glime, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, Susan Setterberg, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Dan & Linda Southworth, Chris Swarth, Glenn Therres, Mary Ann Todd, Amy Thornton, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner, David Ziolkowski.

Abbreviations: CBC - Christmas Bird Count, DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area, WS - Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Broadford Reservoir (Garrett), Dan's Rock (Allegany), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Eden Brook (Howard), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes. Thirty **Red-throated Loons** were at Ocean City on Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and **Common Loons** included 8 at Cambridge on Dec. 4 (Armistead), 9 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 9 (Skipper), and 1 at the mouth of St. Leonards Creek, Calvert County on Feb. 27 (Davidson, Wierenga). Steve Simon tallied 44 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Loch Raven on Dec. 19, and high counts of **Horned Grebes** were 29 at Hains Point on Jan. 6 (Dobbins), 65 at Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Hoffman), 50 at Town Creek and California on Feb. 27 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 49 in Anne Arundel County on Feb. 28 (Wierenga). The top grebe story for this winter was the invasion, like none ever seen in Maryland, of hundreds of **Red-necked Grebes**. Following the fall report of 1 in DC on Nov. 29 (Ted Unseth), sightings trickled in during January and early February with 1 at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Reese), 2 at Jug Bay on Feb. 1 (Colin Wood), 1 at Lapidum, Harford County on Feb. 2 (Ziolkowski), 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 3 (Dobbins), 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Dyke), and 3 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 6 (Therres). By the middle of February, as most of the Great Lakes froze over, the Red-necked Grebes were being spotted throughout coastal and Chesapeake Bay waters and from virtually all open waters. Reports were far too numerous to detail, but some of the highlights were 75+ at Hains Point on Feb. 12-13 (Dobbins), 3 on the Potomac River in Cumberland on Feb. 13-28 (Twigg), 8 at Ocean City during Feb. 13-18 (Hoffman, Davidson, Wierenga), 26 at Seneca on Feb. 17 (Bonham), 34 at the mouth of the Susquehanna near Havre de Grace the same day (Webb), 2 at Federalsburg on Feb. 18 (Reese) and Feb. 25 (Hewitt, Fletcher) for the first Caroline County record, 14 at Assateague on Feb. 19 (Davidson, Wierenga), several moving up the Potomac at Riley's Lock throughout the day on Feb. 19 (Southworths), 102 in DC on Feb. 20 (Robert Hilton), 3 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 20 (Dobbins), 1 at Grasonville on Feb. 20 (Reese, Effinger), 39 at Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Hoffman), 1 at PRNAS on Feb. 22 (Rambo), and 2 at Denton on Feb. 23 (Short). On Feb. 27, 1 was at Cambridge and 1 at the Choptank River Bridge, Talbot County (Ringler+), 1 at Rocky Gorge Dam in Howard County (Osenton), 2 at Salisbury (Dyke), and 1 at the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek, Calvert County and 13 at Town Creek and California (Davidson, Wierenga). There were 98 Red-neckeds at Ft. Smallwood Park, 16 at Downs Park, 13 at Cape St. Claire, 40 at Sandy Point SP, and 7 at Broadwater—for a total of 174—all in Anne Arundel County on Feb. 28 (Wierenga). Not to be left out, solo **Eared Grebes** were noted at Ocean City on Jan. 16 (Dyke), and at the Georgetown Reservoir in DC on March 9 (R. Anderson).

Gannets, Cormorants, Herons. Steve Sanford spotted 3 **Northern Gannets** at Point Lookout on Dec. 11, and Ocean City was the top wintering spot for **Great Cormorants** again with 5 on Jan. 1 (Hoffman), and 1-2 through the end of the period. Another Great was seen at PRNAS on Jan. 10 (Rambo), and an immature was at DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 5 at Ocean Pines on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), 2 at PRNAS on Jan. 10 (Rambo), an immature in DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), 1 at Denton on Jan. 24 (Hewitt), and 10 at Ocean City on Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). An **American Bittern** was present at Assateague on Jan. 1 (Hoffman) and Jan. 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and another was at Cherry Hill Park, Baltimore City on Jan. 23 (Bob Rineer, Gwen Burkhardt). Jim Wilkinson noted 5 **Great Blue Herons** at Lilypons on Jan. 29, Inez Glime counted 47 at Federalsburg on Feb. 24, and Mark Hoffman checked off a **Great Egret** at Assateague on Dec. 31. Erika Wilson found 3 **Tricolored Herons** at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 15.

Swans, Geese. Highs for **Tundra Swans** were 1800+ at American Corner on Feb. 25 (Engle), 500 at Kennedyville on Feb. 26 (Grubers), and 150 at Triadelphia on Feb. 25 (Farrell, Solem). **Mute Swans** totaled a disheartening 535 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 29 (Grubers); 1 was at Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler), and the 3 on the Chester River opposite Crumpton, Kent County on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler) were far upriver. Dobbins noted 1 Mute Swan at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 20. An immature **Greater White-fronted Goose** was near Snow Hill on Feb. 12 (O'Brien), 1 was at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 19 (Osenton+), and an adult was at Pocomoke City on Feb. 26 (Hoffman). **Snow Goose** highs were 7000 at Ruthsburg on Jan. 11 (Grubers), 4000 near Queen Anne, Queen Anne's County on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Thornton), 3000 at Greensboro on Feb. 8 (Fletcher), and 6000 near Snow Hill on Feb. 13 (Hoffman). One white and 2 blue phase wintered in Howard County at Fulton, seen Dec. 4 through Feb. 18 (Farrell, Solem+). A first-winter **Brant** was discovered at DC on the Dec. 18 CBC (David Spector, Steve Pretl) and seen by several birders through the period, and 25 were counted at Oxford on Jan. 9 (J. Anderson). About 1500 Brant were in the Ocean City area on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Large numbers of **Canada Geese** were 3000 at Loch Raven on Jan. 2 (Simon), and 2500 at Piney Run on Jan. 8 (Ringler).

Puddle Ducks. A male **Wood Duck**, enamored with a female Mallard, remained at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson). A pair of Wood Ducks was found at Dipple Creek, Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Dec. 23 (Webb), 4 pairs were at Centennial on Jan. 12 (Bockstie), 3 individuals were near Berlin on Jan. 22 (Hoffman), and 5 were on Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler). The first early migrants may have been the 10 at UMC on Feb. 17 (McClures) and 35 at Wagram Creek, Worcester County on Feb. 26 (Hoffman). Nice counts of **American Black Ducks** were 40 on the Potomac at Weverton on Dec. 4 (Czaplak), 72 at Triadelphia in Jan. 8 (Osenton), 700 at Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 750 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 29 (Grubers), and 110 at Piney Run on Feb. 6 (Ringler). **Mallards** included 100 at Ocean City and 400 at South Point Pond, Worcester County on Jan. 22, and 200 at West Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2500 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 29 (Grubers). **Northern Pintails** this winter were 30 at Assateague on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 30 at Jug Bay on Feb. 24 (Swarth). Two female **Blue-winged Teals** were found at the Elliott Road Pond in Howard County on Dec. 4 (Farrell, Solem). Mark Hoffman reported 15 **Northern Shovelers** at the Pocomoke City sewage ponds on Feb. 26-27, and 50 **Gadwalls** at Ocean City on Jan. 22. The pair of **Eurasian Wigeon** found at PWRC on Dec. 26 during the Bowie Christmas Count could well have been escapes (Fallon). A male Eurasian Wigeon was at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 26 (Hoffman). Steve Simon noted the high for **American Wigeon** at Loch Raven with 240 on Dec. 3. Others were 40 at Ocean City and 40 at South Point Road, Worcester County on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Aythya Ducks. About 1000 **Canvasbacks** were noted at the reliable West Ocean City pond on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Thornton). Other high counts were 300 in DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), 182 on St. Jerome's Creek, St. Mary's County on Jan. 25 (Craig), 1000 at Eastern Neck and 5000 at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers), 45 at Hains Point on Feb. 13 (Dobbins), 150 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 19 (Danny Poet), 30 inland at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Feb. 26 (Farrell, Solem), and 500, including one nearly all-white bird, at Cambridge on Feb. 27 (Ringler+). It was a good winter for **Redheads** with 8 at Choptank on Jan. 6 (Ford), 60 in DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), 26 at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers), 4 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 5 (Therres), 18 at Havre de Grace on Feb. 13 (Webb), 1 at Point Lookout on Feb. 20 (Swarth), and 4 at Cambridge on Feb. 27 (Ringler+). Nice tallies for the **Ring-necked Duck** were 650 at Loch Raven on Dec. 3 (Simon), 100 at Ocean Pines on Dec. 19 (Hoffman), 96 at Denton on Feb. 22 (Hewitt),

363 at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Feb. 26 (Farrell, Solem), and 150 at Piscataway Creek, Prince George's County on Feb. 27 (Nistico). A **Greater Scaup** was identified at Broadford Lake on Dec. 5 (Czaplak), 80 were tallied at Ocean City on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), a nice count of 3000 was made at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers), and 250 were at Kent Narrows on Feb. 6 (Therres). **Lesser Scaup** included 300 at Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 1000 at Eastern Neck and 8000 at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers).

Eiders, Harlequin Ducks, Oldsquaws, Scoters. Four **Common Eiders** were at Ocean City on Dec. 19, and an adult male, 2 immature males and 2 females were there on Jan. 1 (Hoffman), and 6 were seen through the end of the period (many observers). From 1 to 5 **Common Eiders** were reported at Ocean City by several birders through Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd+). **King Eiders** showed a preference for Ocean City as well, with a first-year male there from Dec. 19 through Feb. 27 (Hoffman+). Reliable Ocean City also yielded **Harlequin Ducks**, with a male, a female, and an immature there from Dec. 19 (Hoffman) through the period, and 6, an adult male, an immature male and 4 females on Feb. 26 (Ringler+). A drake Harlequin was discovered at Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Feb. 8 (Webb). The last **Oldsquaw** seen at Triadelphia was on Dec. 4 (Farrell, Solem), 30 were at Oxford on Jan. 9 (J. Anderson), and 100 were checked off at Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Mark Hoffman and Mike O'Brien found 20 **Black Scoters** at Ocean City on Jan. 30, and Mary Twigg and Dave Czaplak reported 4 **Surf Scoters** way inland at Rocky Gap SP on Dec. 5. Sixty **Surf Scoters** were at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Hoffman). **White-winged Scoters** were not to be left out with 5 inland at Triadelphia on Jan. 8 (Osenton) and 2 at Ocean City on Jan. 29-30 and on Feb. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks. Jim and Trish Gruber had a nice sighting of 600 **Common Goldeneyes** at Eastern Neck on Jan. 29, and good counts for the **Bufflehead** were 100 at the Ocean City inlet, 200 at the bay there, and another 200 at Assateague on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Mark Wallace notched 60 **Hooded Mergansers** at Jennings Chapel Road, Howard County on Dec. 9, 100 were at Piney Run on Dec. 25 (Ringler), Steve Simon counted 114 at Loch Raven on Jan. 2, and Dave Czaplak found 30 in DC on Jan. 22. About 20 **Common Mergansers** were at Merkle WS on Feb. 20 (Lynn & Sue Davidson), and 60 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Ocean City on Jan. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Davidson and Wierenga tallied 200 **Ruddy Ducks** at the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek, Calvert County on Feb. 27.

Exotic Waterfowl. A female **Red-crested Pochard** was near Ft. Smallwood on Feb. 28 (Wierenga), a male **Ruddy Shelduck** was at Centennial on Dec. 10 (Bockstie, Farrell+), and a drake **Mandarin Duck** was at Lake Elkhorn on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Solem).

Osprey, Hawks, Eagles. An **Osprey** was checked off during the DC CBC on Dec. 18 (DuMont, Bjerke+), another was at Merkle WS on Feb. 20 (Lynn & Sue Davidson), 1 was at Denton on Feb. 23 (Short), and another was at the Choptank Wetlands Preserve, Talbot County on Feb. 26 (Al Haury). **Bald Eagles** found in the western portion of the State were an adult at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 5 (Czaplak), and 1 found during the Oakland CBC on Dec. 18 (Skipper). A **Bald Eagle** was at Prettyboy Reservoir on Dec. 29 (Joe Buchanan), 2 were at Piney Run through Dec. 6 with 1 through Feb. 6 (Ringler), and an adult was noted near Lilypons on Feb. 13 (Fallon). With the rough weather, it was not surprising that **Northern Goshawks** made a few appearances with an adult on Dec. 12 at Centennial (Bockstie), and an immature there from late December into March (Darius Ecker+). Another immature was reported in DC on Jan.

29 (Dobbins), an adult was near Berlin on Feb. 5 (Dyke), and an immature was near Easton on Feb. 20 (Reese, Robert Sharp). Paul Fritz observed mating behavior of both a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Seneca and a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** near Buckeystown on the early date of Feb. 16. Reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** near Lilypons were numerous including a dark phase there on Dec. 31 (Dobbins), a light phase there on Jan. 29 (Wilkinson), and both a light and dark phase there from Feb. 12 (Czaplak) through Feb. 20 (R. & J. Anderson, Wilson). Another Rough-legged was at Perryman on Jan. 28 (Ziolkowski), 1 was near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), 1 of each color phase was at Dan's Rock on Feb. 5 (Twigg), 1 was at Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Feb. 16 (Webb), and another was at the Glades in Garrett County on Feb. 19 (Czaplak). **Golden Eagles** this winter were an immature near Decoursey Bridge, Dorchester County on Dec. 8 (Dyke), an adult near Wetipquin, Wicomico County on Dec. 19 (Dyke), an immature at Blackwater on Jan. 9 (Lawler), and 2-3 adults near Decoursey Bridge on Feb. 26 (Dyke).

Falcons. Bonnie Ott spotted a **Merlin** near Ellicott City on Dec. 13; others were 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 14 (Rambo, Lister), a female at Hains Point on Feb. 1 (Dobbins), and 2 in Snow Hill on Feb. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga). **Peregrine Falcons** included an immature at Cambridge on Dec. 11 (Lawler), 1 at Ocean City on Dec. 19 and 1 at Assateague on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), 1 flying near Ellicott City on Jan. 14 (Ott), 1 near Newark on Jan. 29 (Hoffman), an immature at Hains Point on Feb. 1 (Dobbins), and 1 on the Route 4 bridge between Calvert and St. Mary's counties on Feb. 2 (Craig). More exciting news for the season was the grand appearance of an immature gray-morph **Gyr Falcon** found along New Design Road, near Lilypons, by Paul Fritz on Feb. 9. Many birders made the trip to see this hawk, a first for the State, which was located off and on until at least Feb. 19 (Osenton, Southworths+).

Wild Turkeys, Rails, Coots. A **Wild Turkey** was discovered at Jug Bay on Jan. 5 for the third sighting there (Swarth). From mid-Dec. to Jan. 12, Tom and Elizabeth Clark enjoyed watching a flock of 5 that frequented their yard in Clarksville, and 7 were near Massey on Feb. 5 (Ringler, Blom). Harry Armistead noted 4 **Clapper Rails** at Elliott Island on Dec. 4, and two large rails, probably **King Rails**, were seen at Truitts Landing on Feb. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga). Chris Swarth heard a **Virginia Rail** at Jug Bay on Jan. 26, and approximately 10 were noted at Truitts Landing on Feb. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga). Steve Simon enjoyed a nice count of 1200 **American Coots** at Loch Raven on Dec. 9, and approximately 420 were at Deep Creek Lake the same day (Skipper). At least one coot was at Centennial Lake throughout the period, with 3 there on Feb. 4 (Solem).

Sandhill Crane, Plovers, Oystercatchers. A **Sandhill Crane** was reported at Starr Road, Queen Anne's County on Jan. 4 (Therres). A **Black-bellied Plover** was at Lilypons on Dec. 8 (Dobbins), and 150 were notched in Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Hoffman). With the harsh winter **Killdeer** did not stick around long but a loose flock of 32 birds was noted in southeastern Howard County on Dec. 18 (Farrell, Solem). Hoffman and O'Brien counted 60 **American Oystercatchers** in Ocean City on Jan. 22, and a group of 4 were doing territorial displays there on Feb. 26 (Ringler+).

Sandpipers. Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Elliott Island on Dec. 4 (Armistead) and at Denton on Dec. 17 (Hewitt); 3 were at Dames Quarter, Wenona on Jan. 15 (Wilson). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen in a ditch at Tanyard on Jan. 19-20 (Engle), and a **Marbled Godwit** was at Ocean City on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), where Bruce Peterjohn checked off 4 Marbled Godwits earlier on Dec. 5. Forty **Ruddy Turnstones** were at Ocean City on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Hoffman found a **Red Knot** at Ocean City on Jan. 1 and 50 **Purple Sandpipers** were there on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Thornton). Ocean City was also a popular place for **Dunlins** with 600 estimated there on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **Common Snipe** included 1 at North Branch on Jan. 1 (Twigg), 4 at Tanyard during Jan. 19-27 (Engle), 1 at Tracys Landing on Jan. 28 (Reese), 6 at Lilypons on Jan. 29 (Wilkinson), and 5 along Route 611 in Worcester County on Jan. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Dark-headed Gulls. Lingering winter **Laughing Gulls** continue to increase and an all-time high was set on the DC CBC with 114 on Dec. 18 (Bjerke+). Another Laughter was at Ocean City on Dec. 19 (Hoffman), and another at Denton on Feb. 4 (Fletcher). A first-winter **Little Gull** was at Ocean City on Dec. 19 (Hoffman), a Little Gull was seen there on Jan. 15 (Czaplak), and an adult was identified there on Feb. 7 (Dyke). **Common Black-headed Gulls** included an adult at Ocean City from Jan. 30 through February (Dyke+), and another at Conowingo Dam from Feb. 2 (Ziolkowski) to Feb. 13 (Webb). High counts for the **Bonaparte's Gull** were 500 at Ocean City on Dec. 19 (Hoffman) and 54 at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 2 (Scarpulla, June Vaughn). Inland sightings included 6 at Triadelphia on Jan. 8 (Solem, Osenton), and 1 at Centennial Park on Jan. 15 (Farrell).

White-headed Gulls. A first-winter **Common Gull**, Maryland's and the Region's first, was located at mid-day at the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River on Jan. 22 (Gustafson, Peterjohn). It was located briefly again that evening (Blom), and Scarpulla had a good sighting of this bird there on Feb. 6. Concentrations of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 3500 at Westover on Jan. 6 (Reese), 3500 in Linkwood on Feb. 19 (Reese), and 150 inland at Cumberland on Feb. 20 (Czaplak). An adult all white Ring-billed, seen in the fall, was still at Ocean City on Jan. 16 (Czaplak). Five **Herring Gulls** were seen upstream from Harper's Ferry on the Potomac on Dec. 19 (Czaplak), 1500 were in Westover on Jan. 6 (Reese), 4000 were at the Worcester landfill on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2 were at Cumberland on Feb. 20 and 6 at Weverton on Feb. 25 (Czaplak). Dave Czaplak identified a **Thayer's Gull** at Laytonsville on Dec. 18. **Iceland Gulls**, probably feeling pretty much at home, were numerous with 1 at Laytonsville on Dec. 11, 2 there on Dec. 18 and Jan. 8, and 2 at DC on Jan. 1 (Czaplak). Others were first-winter birds at Piney Run on Jan. 1-8 (Ringler), at PWRC on Jan. 10 (Osenton, Gough), at the Cecil County landfill on Jan. 15, at Conowingo the same day (Scarpulla, Beth Olsen) and on Jan. 23 (Czaplak), at Ocean City on Jan. 16-29 (Hoffman+), 2 at Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County on Jan. 29 (Farrell, Magnusson), at DC on Feb. 6 and Feb. 12 (Dobbins), and 1 bird at Salisbury on Feb. 17 (Brodericks). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were once again numerous and included 2 adults at Eastern Neck on Dec. 12 (Ringler+), an adult at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 18 (Scarpulla, Blom), an adult at the Worcester County landfill on Dec. 20 (Hoffman), 1 at Triadelphia on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Solem), a third-winter bird at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler), 2 adults at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 2 (Scarpulla, June Vaughn), at least 4 at Salisbury on Jan. 7 (Dyke), and an adult on Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler). On Jan. 29, 2 were at the Worcester County landfill (Hoffman, O'Brien), 8 at the Wicomico County landfill (Brodericks), an adult at Back River (Scarpulla), and 3 adults at Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County (Magnusson, Farrell), also present on Feb. 5 (Scarpulla,

Ralph Cullison). Two adults were at the Wicomico County landfill on Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). A **Glaucous Gull** was at Laytonsville on Dec. 11 (Czaplak), and an adult was at Lapidum Landing, Harford County on Jan. 3 (Webb). Single first-winter Glaucous Gulls were at Centennial Park on Jan. 15 (Osenton), at Conowingo Dam from Jan. 15 (Scarpulla, Beth Olsen) through Feb. 12 (Webb), at Piney Run on Jan. 23 (Ringler), at PWRC on Jan. 26 (Osenton, Gough, W. Martin), and at Hains Point on Jan. 31 (Dobbins). A sub-adult was at Conowingo Dam on Feb. 17 (Webb), and 2 Glaucous Gulls were in DC on Feb. 17 (Czaplak). **Great Black-backed Gulls** of note were 50 at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler), 100+ at Westover on Jan. 6 (Reese), 300 at the Worcester County landfill on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 50 at the Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County the same day (Farrell, Magnusson).

Kittiwake, Forster's Terns, Razorbill. An adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** was noted at Ocean City on Feb. 9 (Brodericks), and 2 **Forster's Terns** were there on Jan. 1 (Hoffman, Reese). Also at Ocean City was a **Razorbill** on Feb. 16 (Dobbins).

Owls, Woodpeckers. Dobbins discovered a **Barn Owl** at Merkle WS on Feb. 22, and **Long-eared Owls** were found in western Montgomery County on Jan. 25 (Czaplak), and at Centennial Jan. 30—Feb. 5 (Ott). **Short-eared Owls** included 2 at Elliott Island on Dec. 4 (Armistead), 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Hoffman, Scarpulla), 1 at Assateague on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), and 3 at New Design Road near Lilypons on Feb. 12 (Czaplak). Kyle Rambo reported a red-shafted/yellow-shafted hybrid **Northern Flicker** at Hollywood, St. Mary's County on Jan. 21.

Flycatchers, Horned Larks, Swallows. **Eastern Phoebe**s proved to be hardy with single birds near Hurlock on Jan. 3 (Reese), at Monument Road, Frederick County on Jan. 9 (Weesner), in Salisbury on Jan. 19 (Lawler), near Berlin on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and near Lilypons on Feb. 20 (Wilson). Highs for **Horned Larks** were 178 at Church Hill on Jan. 11 (Grubers), 300 near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), 350 tallied in Howard County on Feb. 5 (Harveys+), 300 near Berlin on Feb. 13 (Hoffman), and 400 near Lilypons on Feb. 18 (Weesner). Sam Dyke found 20 **Tree Swallows** at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 29.

Corvids, Chickadees, Nuthatch. Jan Reese listed 350 **Fish Crows** at Westover on Jan. 6, and Scarpulla noted a **Common Raven** near Lilypons on Feb. 27 (Scarpulla). Simon, Kye Jenkins, and Ken Jones reported a **Black-capped Chickadee** at Loch Raven on Jan. 2, and Webb found another near Castleton on Feb. 21. Scarpulla and Ralph Cullison discovered a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** at Back River on Jan. 23.

Wrens, Thrushes, Mimids. A **Sedge Wren** was at Assateague on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), and a **Marsh Wren** was in the cattails along Plum Tree Path in Howard County on Jan. 11 (Bockstie, Ott). Over 85 **American Robins**, one with a white head and neck, were at Solomon's Island on Jan. 28 and a **Gray Catbird**, braving the elements, was at Stevensville on Jan. 13 (Reese). Other catbirds were 1 at West Ocean City on Feb. 21 (Hoffman), and 1 or 2 throughout the period at Centennial Park (Farrell). **Brown Thrashers** were 1 at Parsonsburg on Dec. 31 (Pitney), 2 at Allens Fresh on Jan. 1-2 (Jett), 1 at Westover on Jan. 6 and at Stevensville on Jan. 24 (Reese), 1 north of Taneytown on Jan. 22 (Ringler, David Smith), 1 at Royal Oak, Jan. 27—Feb. 10 (Reese, Jean Crump), 1 at Schooley Mill on Jan. 29 (Magnusson), and 1 at Plum Tree Path, Howard County on Feb. 17 (Bockstie).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. Highs for **American Pipits** were about 200 at Ridge on Jan. 1 (Craig, Anne Bishop), 50 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), 50 near Gateway Business Park in Howard County on Jan. 14 (Wilkinson), 60 at UMCF the same day (Ott), 40 near Snow Hill and 60 near Berlin on Feb. 13 (Hoffman), and 80 near Princess Anne on Feb. 19 (Reese). Another of the major finds this season was the first State record of a **Bohemian Waxwing** found by Mark Hoffman at Assateague on Feb. 13, and seen through Feb. 15 (Hoffman, Dyke, Czaplak+). Two hundred **Cedar Waxwings** were near Millington on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler). Jim Wilkinson, Dave Walbeck and Gwen Burkhardt notched a **Northern Shrike** at Piney Run on Jan. 22 and single sightings of **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported at Weverton on Dec. 4 (Czaplak), near Gray's Creek from Dec. 30 (Paul O'Brien) to Feb. 5 (Bjerke), and at Mansfield Monument Road, Washington County on Jan. 29 (Wilbur Hershberger).

Vireos, Warblers. A **Solitary Vireo** was near Pocomoke City on Dec. 27 (Hoffman), and **Pine Warblers** noted were 1 at a suet feeder in Parsonsburg through Feb. (Pitney), 1 at a feeder in Phoenix from Dec. 30 through Feb. 5 (Simon), 14 at South Point on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 3 near Sweet Air, Baltimore County on Jan. 23 (Ringler, Blom), and 2 at Gray's Creek on Feb. 2 (Wilson). Hoffman discovered a **Prairie Warbler** at Assateague on Dec. 20 and 14 **Palm Warblers** near Stockton on Dec. 29. Jane Farrell and Jo Solem notched 2 **Common Yellowthroats** before the weather got too bad at the milk plant in Howard County on Dec. 18, and Hoffman found another at Griffin Road Ponds, Worcester County on Dec. 19.

Painted Bunting, Sparrows. A male **Painted Bunting** continued to be noted in Berlin from Dec. 28 through February (Mary Humphreys+), and another male was near Elkton starting on Dec. 18 (Gary Griffith, Scarpulla, Blom), and seen by many birders until at least Dec. 27 (Walbeck+). Good sightings of **American Tree Sparrows** were 20 at Mt. Pleasant in Howard County on Jan. 13 (Ott, Solem, Crook), 18 at a feeder in Conowingo, Cecil County on Feb. 1 (Blom, Ringler), and 20 at Kent Island on Feb. 6 (Therres). One was at a feeder in Parsonsburg on Feb. 12 (Pitney), and another was at Jug Bay on Feb. 26 (Swarth). Winter reports for **Chipping Sparrows** included 2 on Dec. 2 at Mt. Pleasant (Ott, Setterberg, Solem), 1 in Laurel on Dec. 5 (Osenton), 20 near Stockton on Dec. 29 (Hoffman), 7 at Parsonsburg from Dec. 12 through February (Pitney), an adult at Mexico Farms, Allegany County on Jan. 29 (Ringler, Paulus, Simons), an adult at a feeder in Darlington on Feb. 1 (Blom, Ringler), 1 in Elkridge on Feb. 5 (Thornton), and 1 at Pocomoke State Forest and 8 at the Worcester County landfill on Feb. 13 (Hoffman). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was near Berlin on Jan. 29th into February (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a **Vesper Sparrow** was near Stockton on Dec. 29 (Hoffman). **Savannah Sparrows** were 15 at Mt. Pleasant in Howard County on Dec. 2 (Ott, Setterberg, Solem), 12 at UMCF on Dec. 3 (Ott), and 2 of the "Ipswich" race at Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Hoffman). Another Savannah was off Gorman Road, Howard County on Feb. 28 (Wilkinson). A **Le Conte's Sparrow**, found by Rick Blom during the Ocean City CBC at Gray's Creek near Berlin, was seen by many observers through Feb. 19. The high count for **Fox Sparrows** was 14 at Back River on Jan. 23 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison), and **Lincoln's Sparrows** were identified this season with 1 at UMCF on Dec. 3 (Ott), and 1 near Newark on Dec. 28 and Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **White-crowned Sparrows** were 17, including 2 adults, at Gum Point Road, Worcester County on Dec. 19, and 18 at Assateague on Jan. 30 (Hoffman), 16 along Gum Point Road in one flock on Feb. 14 (Dyke), and 30 immatures near Berlin on Feb. 21 (Hoffman).

Longspurs, Snow Buntings. New Design Road and Oland Road near Lilypons remain a hot spot for **Lapland Longspurs**, including sightings of 9 on Dec. 8 (Dobbins) and 20 on Feb. 13 (Czaplak). Others were 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 10 (Rambo), 1 at Bradenbaugh, Harford County on Jan. 19 (Webb), 2 there on Feb. 9 (Ziolkowski), 1 near Long Green, Baltimore County on Jan. 23 and 150 near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), and 11 near Snow Hill and 1 near Berlin on Feb. 13 (Hoffman). **Highs for Snow Buntings** were 30 at Assateague on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), 100 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), and 120 near Lilypons on Feb. 18 (Weesner). Others were 1 at Assateague on Jan. 16 (Hoffman), 7 at Bradenbaugh, Harford County on Feb. 9 (Ziolkowski), and 2 at Perryman on Jan. 18 (Webb).

Icterines. A fully leucistic **Red-winged Blackbird** was near Havre de Grace on Jan. 13 (Webb). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were an adult male at Patuxent River Park on Feb. 28 (Maureen Blades, Rich Dolesh+), and a female at Blackwater on Feb. 22 (Fallon). A male and 2 female **Brewer's Blackbirds** were at George's Island Landing on Dec. 20 (Hoffman), and 30 were at Ironshire on Jan. 15 (Czaplak), at least 1 of which remained through Feb. 19 (Bjerke). Ott found 1 **Brewer's** near Ellicott City on Jan. 17. Jan Reese estimated over 10,000 **Common Grackles** at Claiborne on Jan. 29, and Bob Ringler estimated 5000 flying over Piney Run on Feb. 20. A female **Northern Oriole** was at Parsonsburg from Dec. 2 into February (Pitney), another was at Hollywood, Jan. 4-15 (Mary Chaney, Craig, Bishop), and another was at Greensboro on Jan. 7 (Hewitt).

Finches. Blom and Ringler found 18 **Purple Finches** at Millington WMA on Feb. 5. The final big story for the winter was the massive **Common Redpoll** invasion. Redpolls began with 2 during the Oakland CBC on Dec. 18 (Skipper), 20 at Elk Neck SP, Cecil County on Dec. 19 (Ziolkowski), 11 at Comus on Dec. 27 (Wilson), 1 at a feeder in Garrett County on Dec. 29 (Skipper), 1 at Salisbury on Dec. 30 (Dyke), and 1 at Assateague on Dec. 31 (Hoffman). Numbers only got better from then on. Redpolls were widespread in January and through the first week of February, and sightings included: 23 at Denton on Jan. 8 (Nuttie), 2 north of Boonsboro on Jan. 9-12 (Sam Shoemaker, Weesner), 100 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 9 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), 1 male and 2 females at the Wild Bird Center in Columbia on Jan. 15 (Osenton), 5-7 at Chestertown on Jan. 17 (Paul Tolson), 1 at Federalsburg on Jan. 18 (Glime), 1-2 at Queenstown on Jan. 22 (Danny Poet), 8 at Hashawha Environmental Center the same day (Ringler, David Smith), 3 at Back River on Jan. 23 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison), 4 at Arnold on Jan. 24 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 at a feeder on Kent Island on Jan. 25 (Therres), 100 at a feeder in Bel Air, Allegany County on Jan. 29 (Ringler, Paulus, Simons), 4 at Carey Run on Jan. 30 (John Willetts+), 2 at Rock Creek Park on Jan. 29 (Dobbins), 80 at Dan's Rock on Feb. 5 (Twigg), 8 at Rock Creek Park on Feb. 5 (Czaplak), 6 at Eldersburg and 6 at Piney Run on Feb. 6 (Ringler), 50 widespread throughout Garrett County on Feb. 19 (Czaplak), 30 at Dan's Rock on Feb. 20 (Czaplak), and 97 at a feeder in Garrett County on Feb. 21 (Skipper). Dave Czaplak studied the redpolls flocking to his feeders in Germantown this season and reported the first 2 on Jan. 20, with a daily high count of over 200 from Feb. 3 to March 18, and a peak count of over 350 on Feb. 15. The count was reduced to 40 by March 27, and 20 were there April 1. Through studying the **Hoary Redpolls** that were sorted out from time to time, and monitoring and photographing their turnover, it is estimated that as many as 1575 Redpolls, including 18 Hoaries, might have passed through this Germantown area for the season. Czaplak had a single day high of 4 Hoaries, and identified 15 of the race *exilipes* and 3 of the race *hornemanni* during the period. Other Hoaries reported were 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 9 (Scarpulla), 1 in Cordova on Jan. 29 (Herndon Stilly), 1 at Finksburg Feb. 5-11 (Ed

Boyd), and 2 at Susan Sires' feeder near Dan's Rock, Feb. 5-28 (Twigg+). Connie Skipper had 20 **Pine Siskins** at her feeder in Garrett County on Dec. 17, as well as 42 **Evening Grosbeaks** there on Jan. 26. Czaplak totaled about 150 Evening Grosbeaks at various sites in Garrett County on Feb. 19.

9763 *Early Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21046*

Received 30 May 1995

BEHAVIOR OF A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN THE RAIN

PETER HANAN

On 19 June 1994 I observed an interesting behavior of an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) that I have not seen described in the literature.

I was sitting at my office desk at my home in Gambrills, Maryland and looking out the window at a hummingbird feeder that is about one meter from where I sit. We had just had a late afternoon thunderstorm, and one adult male hummingbird was sitting on one of the three perches on the feeder. The feeder is on the north side of my house, sheltered under a high soffit. On this day the feeder got a little spray from the thunderstorm.

I made a phone call and continued to watch the bird, which had been feeding. While it sat on the perch it seemed to turn itself off. Water droplets were beading up on the sitting bird. It just got very still and sat on the perch. It perched like this for a few minutes until another male hummingbird came by. The sitting male came to life, turned his head from side to side, and made some movement at the flying bird but did not let go of its perch.

The flying bird made typical aggressive-sounding chatter, but the sitting bird remained on the perch. I would have expected the sitting bird to come to life and move off, but it did not. It just sat on the perch facing the feeder and then it threw its head backwards and flipped upside down, still holding the perch. His bill was pointing almost straight down, and his tail feathers came back up through the perch and were pointing almost straight up. Its legs seemed to get longer as it hung there.

The upside down hummingbird had its breast exposed to the other male hummingbird, which was now flying from side to side in front of this bird. The flying bird did look at the other perches but did not feed or alight. It seemed to get more upset with the upside down hummer. The flying bird then flew at the exposed breast of the perched bird and made five or six thrusts in quick succession with its bill. It ruffled the breast feathers of the upside down bird. I know contact was made because I saw the feeder and the bird move.

At this point I jumped up and headed for the nearby door. I expected to pick up a bleeding, dying, or dead hummingbird. It took just a few seconds to get outside. The attacker was gone, and the victim was still upside down on the perch. When I got to within a meter of the bird it dropped off the perch and flew up into the trees. The bird seemed to be fine despite being in a one-sided fencing match.

2012 *Huntcliff Drive, Gambrills, MD 21054*

Received 9 July 1994

AN UNUSUAL "MARITIME" EASTERN KINGBIRD NEST IN TALBOT COUNTY

HENRY T. ARMISTEAD

During weekends of July 1992, I saw a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) carrying captured insects to and frequenting a large American hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) that leans over the bank on Ferry Neck, 2.5 km west of Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland. This tree is at about the middle of the south bank of Poplar Cove, which gives on to Irish Creek, which in turn extends about 400 m west along the shoreline to the 11-km-wide mouth of the Choptank River. Poplar Cove is in the midst of mixed cultivated farm fields planted in soy beans and corn, loblolly pine forests, hedgerows, fallow fields full of various grasses, lawns and yards, small sections of saltmarsh, and scrubby edge areas as well as coves and estuaries cut out by the tortuous shoreline. Kingbirds have always nested in such surroundings.

On 2 August 1992, I waded out to determine if the birds indeed had a nest in the section of the tree where one seemed to be slightly visible from a dock about 100 m away. There was a nest containing two large young nearly fully enough developed for flight. This being the case, I retreated as soon as I saw them lest they try to fly prematurely and land in the water.

Because of the extreme tilt of this tree, the nest was in an unusual setting. Its location was at the extreme "bottom" of the tree, which would have been near the top if the tree were upright. The tree has tilted for many years and is now at an angle of about 30 degrees to the surface of this extension of Chesapeake Bay. Measurements made in mid-August after the nest was vacated revealed the nest was only 46 cm above salt water at normal high tide and barely 115 cm above the bottom of this Bay cove. Extreme high tide would have inundated the nest. Murphy (1983a) has found that among 109 nests in Kansas and New York, successful Eastern Kingbird nests are "placed at lower absolute and relative heights than failed nests." This nest was 7.1 m from the bank, 8 m from the base of the tree, 0.5 m below the adjacent ground level, and 15 cm above the lowest leaves, other leaves below this level having been killed by the summer's highest tides. Leaves and small branches extended 28 cm above the nest, partially concealing it below the top of what would have been a straight tree's canopy.

The branches in the area of the nest were all less than 0.6 cm in diameter since the nest was in the very outermost branches of the tree. As if to reinforce the semi-marine nature of this nest, its bottom contained eight fragments of ribbed mussel shells (*Modiolus demissus*). A 13 cm section of 0.3 cm braided, weathered nylon string was woven into the fabric of the nest, which was composed otherwise for the most part of long, narrow roots and branches as well as grasses. Two 5 cm white feathers, probably from a Snowy Egret, had also been incorporated into the fabric of the nest.

The circumference at breast height of this hackberry was 117 cm (diameter, 37 cm). Other vegetation within 30 m of the tree included many expected plants for the area such as small red cedars, thistles, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Iva frutescens*, black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*), copious honeysuckle, poison ivy, red mulberry, blackberries, wild roses, winged sumac, black cherry, wild grapevine, black walnut, trumpet creeper, a fringe of *Spartina alterniflora* 30-60 cm wide along the nearby shore, pokeberry, and various grasses as well as a large lawn area.

By normal standards this nest was very low and noteworthy given its location practically in tidal water. Tyler (1942) gives the range of heights of Eastern Kingbird nests as 2-60 feet (0.6-18 m) above the ground. Had this tree stood straight, this nest would have been about 4.3 m above the ground. Tyler mentions "Another favorite location here [Massachusetts] is in trees or low shrubs growing along a river, often on branches overhanging the water" and that kingbirds have also been found nesting in gourds and tree hollows as well as on the tops of posts only a meter or so high. Kingbirds sometimes appropriate nests of Baltimore Orioles or other species, including American Robins (MacKenzie 1982).

One study involving six lakes in the Rideau region of southern Ontario found that Eastern Kingbirds commonly build nests in trees on the water's edge that are often less than 3 m above the ground and frequently in branches overhanging the water (Robertson and Flood 1980). These authors were concerned with recreational use of shoreline areas and, not surprisingly, found that kingbird nests were more successful in undisturbed areas. Nine of 13 nests in undisturbed areas fledged at least one young contrasted with only five of 13 nests in disturbed areas.

Evidence of the resourcefulness of this species is shown by its opportunistic selection of unusual nesting sites in a burned forest area in Michigan. Kingbirds did not nest in the unburned, surrounding forest or presumably in the burned area prior to the burn. After the burn, which opened up the vegetation, making it suitable for kingbirds, "Nearly 65% of the nests were constructed in charred trunks containing cupped depressions that were formed by embers that burned into the heartwood" (Hamas 1983). In spite of their lack of concealment, all the trunk nests fledged young.

Eastern Kingbirds have an affinity for nesting in trees near water in many areas of their summer range. In the Chesapeake area they nest in almost all small marsh hammocks, even on the remotest islands of the Bay (Armistead 1978). Even today, fourteen years later, when many of these hammocks have been diminished by erosion and die off because of blowovers and saltwater intrusion, kingbirds still nest in many of these same places. Reasons postulated for nesting near to or over water by kingbirds include reduced predation because of the inaccessibility of the nest, an increased insect food supply, and a more moderate microclimate. In Ontario, nests on small islands were found to be more successful than those elsewhere (Blancher and Robertson 1985a). These same authors (1985b) determined that "the degree of isolation of the nest site by water" was the most obvious habitat feature that affected predation rates.

None of the articles cited here or the standard reference books on North American nests and eggs by Oliver Davie, Colin Harrison, Hal H. Harrison, Richard Headstrom, or Chester A. Reed mention the height above water for kingbird nests in waterside trees such as described by Tyler. On 7 August 1993, a nest at the Ferry Neck site was found 11 m above ground in a black locust about 15 m inland from the 1992 nest tree.

Documentation for Eastern Kingbird's frequent choice of low nesting sites can be found in Canada's prairie provinces where 66% of 231 nests were within 2 m of the ground in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta (MacKenzie 1981). In the same area, about 85% of the 102 Western Kingbird nests found were 2-7 m high.

I saw my pair of kingbirds chase and harass Turkey Vultures, an adult Bald Eagle, Laughing Gulls, Forster's Terns, American Crows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles when they came within the vicinity of their nest. A year later, on 31 July

1993, I saw three recently fledged kingbirds perched in the top of a black locust growing next to the 1992 nest tree. A large hawk approached from a distance of more than a kilometer and stooped behind the trees. When it came into view again I saw it was an immature male Cooper's Hawk. One of the parent kingbirds, in a spectacular display of maneuverability, chased this supreme bird predator across the cove and out of sight, a distance of at least half a kilometer, before the hawk disappeared behind some trees, the kingbird still in pursuit.

Kingbirds have an unusually long, and usually successful, period of post-fledging care. Predators are the main source of both egg and nestling loss, yet fledgling loss is near zero according to studies in New York and Kansas (Murphy 1983a, 1983b). One of the reasons for this success is kingbird aggression toward predators such as in the present case. Field work conducted by boat in Ontario revealed that among 32 lakeside nesting pairs, successful pairs were "significantly more aggressive than pairs that later lost nests to predators" (Blancher and Robertson 1983).

Acknowledgments

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523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119

Received 10 August 1993

FIFTY YEARS OF MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

Maryland Birdlife began as a mimeographed *Maryland Ornithological Society Bulletin* dated March and April 1945. The opening sentence was a quote from John Burroughs: "To understand nature is to gain one of the greatest resources of life." By the second issue, it carried its present name, *Maryland Birdlife*, and boasted a constituency of 97 members.

For the first six years Orville Crowder mimeographed the journal himself. The first few issues were devoted largely to reports of scheduled field trips, but technical articles by Hervey Brackbill, Irving Hampe, Haven Kolb, and other members began appearing in the first year of publication.

Haven Kolb started the *Season* reports early in 1946. They have continued to date under the successive editorship of Chan Robbins, Bob Ringler, and Daniel and Linda Southworth. Reports of Maryland Christmas Bird Counts appeared regularly in the early years, starting with 1945, generally in tabular form. They were subsequently dropped to save space; nearly all were published by National Audubon so no important information was lost.

Hervey Brackbill (2:39-41) summarized one of the first cooperative projects, a survey of starling roosts in Baltimore. The Junior Page, initiated in 1947, gave junior members an opportunity to report on their activities. By 1955 we had a Junior Editorial Board who selected and edited short manuscripts submitted by Junior Members.

Bob Stewart's two 1947 articles on the Distribution of Maryland Birds (3:55-57, 3:71-74) were the first of many reports that added new species to the Maryland list, which at that time totaled 309 species.

The MOS nest record project was successfully launched in 1949, with proof of nesting supplied for 98 species that year. Annual summaries of the valuable data contributed on Maryland nest cards were published for many years. This nest record file, one of the first state nest record files to be established, became the major source of information on nesting dates, clutch sizes, and cowbird parasitism rates for the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas.

Starting with Volume 7 (1951), we changed *Maryland Birdlife* to its present 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 format. We typed the copy on manual typewriters in camera-ready form and pasted up each page for reproduction by D. Stuart Webb, Inc., in Baltimore. We could now include photographs, including cover photos, which then became a regular part of each issue. Irving Hampe created the first Department Headings and became our first Art Editor. For many years, Mildred Cole did much of the final typing, and Gladys Cole hosted the quarterly "pasting parties." Currently we send most copy on diskette to Tri-State Printing, Inc., in Hagerstown for printing and stapling.

The first lead article under the new format was a Nesting Study of Purple Grackles at Middle River, Maryland, by young Edwin Willis, who is now an authority on tropical birds at the National University in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The lead article in the following issue is one of my favorites. Someone had told me of an elderly gentleman in Allegany County who had vivid memories of Passenger Pigeons back in the 1870's. I drove up to Barton and was fortunate enough to find Edward Grant, who was about 90 years of age. In the course of our conversation he dictated the article that appears under his name (*Maryland Birdlife* 7:27-29), "The Last Maryland Flight of the Passenger Pigeon."

We continued to use the Bolton Street address of the Maryland Natural History Society until we obtained space at our present headquarters in Cylburn Mansion in 1959.

Our first cumulative species and author indexes, covering volumes 1-13, were published in the December 1958 issue. Subsequent indexes were published separately in 1966 (volumes 14- 20) and 1969 (volumes 21-25). Indexes for the more recent volumes are being prepared.

Except for special Sanctuary drives, *Maryland Birdlife* has always been the number 1 budget item. Annual dues that began at \$1, were raised to \$1.50 in 1950, and by 1954 they were \$2. Not until MOS was 27 years old in 1972 were the adult dues raised to \$3. They are now \$10. From the beginning, budgetary constraints have limited the number of pages printed. We have always given high priority to Season reports and to annual reports of state committee chairpersons and chapter presidents. We have given top priority to special MOS projects, such as the first county atlases (34:1-46) and the recent Winter Bird Survey (50:1-83).

Major cooperative projects such as the May Count results have usually been published (except in the few years when no manuscript was submitted), although sometimes they have been in shortened form. May counts, being quantitative and accompanied by time and mileage afield, have taken precedence over tabulations of annual county lists (without dates or numbers) such as were published in the 1950's and 1960's.

Maryland Birdlife is published quarterly by the MOS, Inc., to "Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Maryland." In the first 50 years we brought you 5,602 pages of material, nearly all of which was contributed by members. This is your journal. We welcome original articles on Maryland birds. All articles of scientific interest are abstracted by *Wildlife Review* and various electronic reference sources.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Maryland

Received 20 May 1995

GREAT HORNED OWL'S NEST DESTROYED BY MARAUDING CROWS

CONNIE BOCKSTIE

On the morning of 19 January 1993, Sue Probst and I, having just parked in the lot above the concession stand on the south side of Centennial Park in Howard County, were planning to walk around the lake, birding as we went. Almost immediately our attention was drawn to the wooded area on the north side of the parking lot where a large number of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were diving on a very tall oak tree. Close inspection revealed a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) on an abandoned hawk's nest about 18 meters (60 feet) up in the main crotch of the tree. The crows were creating so much commotion and diving so close to the nest that the owl was ducking to avoid being hit.

We walk around the park about five times each week, so we were able to keep a close check on the incubating bird. From the far side of the parking lot we could quickly determine if she was still on the nest. Generally there was no need to go near the woods because so many crows were in the immediate area that we knew she must still be there. In the few times when crows were not harassing the owl, we circumspectly checked the nest. We affectionately, but respectfully, dubbed the owl, Mrs. Bubo.

It was not widely known that the owl was nesting in that location, so close to the edge of the woods and directly adjacent to a much-used parking lot. In an effort to protect her from over-zealous observers who might jeopardize the outcome of her nesting effort by too much attention, her presence was not advertised. On several occasions a few birders reported seeing the owl sitting up straight or standing in the nest, perhaps stretching or rearranging her eggs. Each time Sue and I saw her, however, she was settled down low in the nest with only her head, or sometimes only the tufts of her "ears," showing. We speculated that this may have been the same owl, first discovered by Bill Van Horn, that fledged one chick across the lake in an area known to local birders as the "duck pond."

On the afternoon of 9 February, while talking to fellow club member Ron Dunwiddie, we noticed unusual noise around the nest tree. From the parking lot we counted about 45 crows diving on the nest, with more continually arriving. We wondered how the owl could withstand such an onslaught. Some of the crows seemed to skim directly over the top of the nest; all we could see were Mrs. Bubo's "ear" tufts as she hunkered far down into the nest.

When we returned at 3 p.m. the next day the woods were strangely quiet. When we looked at the nest from afar we could see nothing. With a sinking feeling we walked closer. For the first time since 19 January the nest was empty. It had been partially pulled from the crotch of the tree. At the foot of the tall oak we found the center of the nest, sprinkled here and there with a few downy feathers. Poking around the leafy debris revealed two broken eggs, one containing a half-eaten embryo, the other bloody and empty. Much whitewash was splattered on the trunk and on the ground on the south side of the nest tree. We could find no pellets. Happily, there was no evidence of the female owl on the ground, so we could speculate that she escaped unharmed. Martha Chestem had seen an owl standing on the nest that day.

All our efforts to protect the owl from human infringement were for naught. In the end it was nature herself, in the relentless and savage attacks of so many crows, that destroyed the nest and thwarted the bird's reproductive attempts. We realize that the Great Horned Owl is not endangered or threatened; still, Sue and I were sick at heart to think that Mrs. Bubo was unable to hatch her brood. Something very wonderful is now missing from Centennial Park.

8797 Autumn Hill Court, Ellicott City, MD 21043

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MOS STATE OFFICERS, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

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<u>Years</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Home Chapter</u>
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1952-55	Chandler S. Robbins	Baltimore
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1957-58	William Shirey	Frederick
1958-59	Dr. Charles J. Stine	Baltimore
1960-61	Marvin W. Hewitt	Caroline
1961-62	Seth H. Low	Baltimore
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1980-83	John Cullom	Baltimore
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1985-88	CDR Anthony White	Montgomery
1988-89	Robert F. Ringler	Carroll
1989-92	John Malcolm	Montgomery
1992-94	William Newman	Baltimore
1994-95	Allan Haury	Anne Arundel

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1946	Haven Kolb
1947-95	Chandler S. Robbins

EDITORS, MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

1980-82	Dan Boone	1985-93	Mark Hoffman
1982-85	Cameron Lewis	1993-95	Norman C. Saunders

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1949-50	Kendrick Hodgdon,		Marvin Hewitt, &
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	Mabel Hoyer, &	1954-55	John Workmeister,
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1950-51	Seth Low,		George Drumm,
	Nan Livingston,		Marvin Hewitt,
	Dr. R. S. Stauffer,		W. Bryant Tyrrell, &
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	Ralph Peakes,	1992-94	Allan Haury
	H. Elizabeth Slater,	1994-95	Robert Rineer

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1949-52	T. M. Sandy
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1955-56	Richard D. Cole
1956-57	Charles M. Buchanan
1957-58	Shirley H. Geddes
1958-59	Robert M. Bowen
1959-60	Frances Stine,
	Roberta Fletcher
1960-61	A. Jerome Fletcher
1966-74	Alta Gras
1974-86	Helen Ford
1986-90	Patricia J. Moore
1990-93	Joan Stephens
1993-95	Sibyl Williams

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1971-73	Mrs. Alger Zapf, Jr.
1973-74	Marlene Letsch
1974-76	Mrs. C. Perryclear
1976-80	Helen Ford
1980-83	Lettie Cullom
1983-85	Mary Love
1985-86	Richard Danca
1986-92	Joy Aso
1992-95	Will Tress

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1961-63	Capt. J. E. M. Wood
1963-66	Katherine Bauer

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1946-47	Herbert P. Strack	1970-72	A. Jerome Fletcher
1949-50	Myra C. Taylor	1972-73	H. Edmund Stiles
1951-53	Louise A. Weagly	1973-82	W. Gordon MacGregor
1953-57	A. J. Fletcher	1983-85	Richard Cleveland
1957-58	Richard M. Douglass	1985-92	Emily Joyce
1958-61	Cdr. Edward Wilson	1992-95	Larry Fry
1961-64	Thomas S. Carswell		
1964-65	Dr. Turner L. Smith		
1965	Edward Mendinhall		

ALBINO CANVASBACK IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

LOLA OBERMAN

On our way to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on 21 February 1995, my husband and I stopped off in Cambridge, as we usually do, to scan the waterfowl on the Choptank River. Fortunately, the heavy fog that had accompanied us all the way from Bethesda had begun to lift by ten o'clock, and we had very satisfying views of Tundra Swans and an assortment of ducks, primarily Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*) with a mingling of scaup, American Wigeon, Mallards, and an occasional goldeneye.

One duck stood out in the flock that gathered close to the shore. It was a startling white and had the unmistakable profile of the Canvasbacks surrounding it. Its beak and eye were black. Its head and neck were a cream color, the mantle a pale pearl-gray. Otherwise the bird was pure white except for black mottling on the breast and undertail coverts.

The albino did not seem to attract any special attention from the other ducks, but it certainly attracted ours.

6606 Melody Lane, Bethesda, Maryland

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209
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Active Membership (adults)	\$10.00 plus local chapter dues
Household	15.00 plus local chapter dues
Sustaining	25.00 plus local chapter dues
Life	400.00 (4 annual installments)
Junior (under 18 years)	5.00 plus local chapter dues



ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF MOS

(From a talk given at the 50th Anniversary Meeting, June 24, 1995)

DONALD H. MESSERSMITH

I am sort of a "come lately" to the organization, but because of my associations with Orville Crowder, I was asked to put this together. I first met Orville Crowder in about 1963 during a visit to Washington where he was giving a lecture on his world travels. On that very night he asked me to lead a tour for him, but I couldn't at the time. By 1966 I had led a trip for him, and in 1967 I did others; and then as the Crowder Nature Tours expanded I worked with him more and more. As he started to become ill with heart trouble and minor strokes, I helped him even more in planning trips. He had no family, and after we formed the World Nature Association in 1969, he wanted everything he had to go to that organization, so his legacy could go on. I have served as President of the Association since its inception. When he died in 1974, I inherited everything including his files and we have used the money from his inheritance to support conservation projects around the world. This work is continuing through the World Nature Association and this explains my connection to him.

Now I would like to go back and talk about the origins of MOS and to discuss a little pre-history that I was able to find in his files and in some other things I had at home that go way back. These are in the display I put together for this meeting. As far as I can tell from what was available to me, the first list of birds for this general area came out in 1862 and was prepared by Elliott Coues and D. Webster Prentiss in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1861, pp. 399-421. This list contained 226 species. They described Washington as follows: "with a population of 60,000, the National Capital was a mud-puddle in winter, a dust heap in summer, a cow-pen and pig-sty all the year round; there was good snipe-shooting within the city limits, and the country all about [which in-



Fig. 1. Some of the earliest Maryland/DC bird publications

cludes Maryland] was as primitive as the most enthusiastic naturalist could desire." In May, 1877, a Mr. Jouy published a list in Vol. II, No. 11 of *Field and Forest*, pp. 191-193 with 240 species listed. When this one (Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 26), the oldest that I have, was published in 1883, there were 180,000 people in Washington, the city had improved somewhat (the pigs were gone), and the city bird list contained 248 species.

The next book that I have here, *A List of the Birds of Maryland*, was published in 1895 by Frank C. Kirkwood and this copy was signed by him in 1935. His list contains 341 species and subspecies. Shortly after that a little booklet was published in 1898 that some of you may have—you see it occasionally in used book stores—*Birds of Washington and Vicinity—Where to Find and How to Know Them*, published by Lucy W. Maynard. It has good bird-finding spots, descriptions of the birds, etc. and includes a great deal about Maryland. She listed 291 species in this book. So, you can see that people were very much interested in birds and what you can also see in these publications is a transfer from scientists doing the work to amateurs doing the work, and that has continued.

Another interesting little book from this time was *Birds of a Maryland Farm* by Sylvester A. Judd which was published by the old Biological Survey in 1902. Its subtitle is "A Local Study of Economic Ornithology." The Bryan Farm is in Marshall Hall directly opposite Mount Vernon.

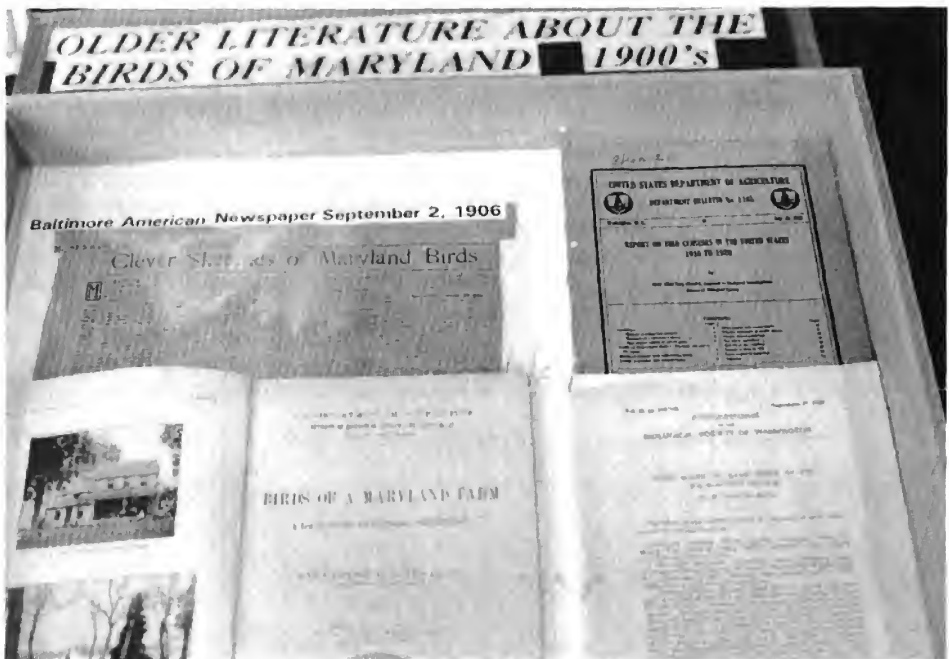


Fig. 2. Publications from the early 1900's.

From what I can glean in the material available to me, a lot of these scientists and amateurs came together in the Maryland Academy of Sciences which met in the Pratt Library in Baltimore and elsewhere. From that group people with special interests spread out and eventually formed the Natural History Society of Maryland in 1929. I have some of their early materials on display in the back of the room including the first issue of their

Bulletin. They are still operating actively in Baltimore. The Society was founded by amateurs, but professionals were in it also and specialty groups were formed for plants and reptiles—in fact the Herpetological Society of Maryland is still very active and associated with them. There were other special interest groups and, of course, a group interested in birds. This group did field trips, etc. As more time went on the Natural History Society published a very nice journal simply called *Maryland—A Journal of Natural History*, which is still being published and probably many of you are members. In the issue of April 1944, page 58, the following notice appeared: "AN APPEAL TO BIRD LOVERS. THE STATE OF MARYLAND HAS LONG NEEDED AN ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE CONSERVATION OF BIRD LIFE. THE NUMEROUS REQUESTS RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION HAVE RESULTED IN THE DECISION TO FORM A BIRD CLUB TO BECOME AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. [There was at that time an Audubon Society in Baltimore.]

AN OPPORTUNITY WILL BE GIVEN TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR A PROGRAM OF BIRD WALKS, LECTURES, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE WRITE THE SOCIETY AT ONCE."

This notice was repeated in the July 1944, issue.



Fig. 3. Publications of the Natural History Society of Maryland and early MOS publications

People did respond, and the first gathering was on February 23, 1945, at the Natural History Society of Maryland headquarters, which at that time was at 2103 Bolton Street in Baltimore. About 40 people came to that meeting. They became the charter members. Irving Hampe (whom Chan told me died just last winter) became the temporary Chairman and Mrs. M. C. Kent became the temporary Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Ray Beasley was appointed Chairman of a committee to draw up a Constitution. A general program was discussed and approved and a meeting was called for March 9th at 8:30 to elect officers and adopt a Constitution.

At that meeting they elected Irving Hampe as President; Orville W. Crowder, Vice-President; Mrs. Millard C. Kent, Recording Secretary; Miss Helen C. Klinke, Corresponding Secretary; and Millard C. Kent, Treasurer. They discussed their Constitution and By-Laws and then they appointed Committees for hikes, programs, membership, records, and publications. The second Friday of each month was chosen for their regular meetings and the publication of a bi-monthly bulletin was approved. Membership had increased to 67 persons by that March meeting. The official founding date of the Society was April 9, 1945. At that time they adopted a statement which is on these older bulletins, "The object of this Club shall be to record the observations of bird life in Maryland; to disseminate in a popular manner the results of such observations; to collate the scientific data furnished by bird students throughout the state, and to supply such available information to other groups as requested; and to promote the cultivation of public sentiment in the preservation of our native bird life." And that, of course, is what we have done since then. They had 61 names on their April 1945 list.

The Hike Committee was made up of Orville Crowder and Florence H. Burner. The first MOS field trip was led by Irving Hampe on March 11, 1945. They went to the Lake Roland area. I should add that in those days they were traveling by streetcar. This was the end of World War II and transportation was still very difficult. Their 15 species were recorded in a detailed trip report. The second trip was on March 17, 1945. Mr. Ray Beasley reported it in the Newsletter (Bulletin) and it was led by Orville Crowder to Harwood and Point Oliver on the Gunpowder River. They saw 18 species. The third trip, on March 18, 1945, was led by Orville Crowder assisted by Ray Beasley along the Gunpowder River as far south as Dundee Creek. They saw 35 species. Later they also had a trip to Sandy Point and Matapeake where they had to cross over on the ferry, because there was no bridge. That was on March 25th, 1945, and was led by Ray Beasley and Orville Crowder. They saw 33 species.

The Bulletin as it was called came out with the first issue for March and April, 1945, and by the next issue, the May and June, 1945 issue, it was called *MARYLAND BIRDLIFE* and has remained so since. By June of 1945 they had 97 members and decided to publish their Newsletter bi-monthly. In the September-October issue there is a report of the first trip led by one Chandler Robbins. On October 26th, 1945, he and Robert Stewart welcomed the members to the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge for a tour of the laboratories and a field trip. Chan joined the Society in February, 1946. By November-December 1945 (Chan will relate to this), they had trouble getting out *MARYLAND BIRDLIFE* on time and were appealing for more material. [Laughter] And Chan wasn't yet the Editor then. So, it's a long tradition here. But we're caught up now and it's only taken 50 years.

The first Christmas bird counts were in 1945. There were three of them, all in Baltimore County. One went to Loch Raven on December 23 where they saw 30 species and 511 individual birds as reported by Haven Kolb. On Dec. 28 they recorded 18 species and 179 individuals at Lake Roland as reported by Ray J. Beasley. The MOS count was on Dec. 30 and reported by Orville Crowder. They saw 25 species and 400 individuals along the West Shore of Chesapeake Bay from Middle River to Gunpowder River.

In their second year on March 8, 1946, they elected Orville W. Crowder, President; Mr. J. H. Passimore, Vice-President; and the Secretary was Haven Kolb who is still around. I talked to him recently and hoped he would be here at the 50th anniversary conference. He is still very active in the Natural History Society as well as MOS, as he has been for many years. The new Treasurer was Mr. Herbert Strack. In September, 20-22, 1946, they held their first joint trip with the Washington, D.C. group, which is now the Audubon Naturalist Society, and they went to Cape May, New Jersey. Irston Barnes was the leader for the Washington group and Orville Crowder for MOS.

The Baltimore Oriole, which we can now call it again, was officially named the State Bird of Maryland by the Legislature in 1947 and I suspect the Society had something to do with that. However, by act of the Legislature on March 30, 1882, the bird had already been protected and given a specially privileged status according to the way it was written.

Orville Crowder, as President, then began organizing chapters. He would go out and give talks to various groups around the state that already were meeting and were interested in birds. He helped Helen Miller organize the Allegany Chapter in January 1948 and Frederick County (April 17th) and Washington County in April 1948. The Anne Arundel Chapter was formed on February 7, 1950, the Caroline County Chapter in 1950, and the Garrett County Chapter in November, 1953. In all, he organized about six chapters, including the Harford Chapter. I quote from the recently published history of the Harford Chapter: "A frequent, very interested and interesting speaker was Orville W. Crowder, president of the Maryland Ornithological Society, headquartered in Baltimore. This society was comprised of unit groups [not chapters] of bird lovers in Baltimore, Allegany, Anne Arundel, Washington, and Caroline Counties and in Takoma Park. Crowder was an enthusiastic birder and naturalist and it soon became evident to him that in this Bel Air group was the nucleus of another unit to join with the Maryland Ornithological Society. There were a few in this group who already were members of the MOS Baltimore unit." (They are mentioned.) If histories could be written of all the chapters you would find Orville's name mentioned. It should also be mentioned that he helped organize the Takoma Park Nature Society in 1951, but as far as I can glean it disappeared from the scene in 1962. There have been other chapters that have disappeared: Rossmoor Bird Club December, 1968-1972, Soldier's Delight Chapter, 1960-1966, and Dorchester County Chapter, 1975-1979.

It should also be mentioned that some of the early field trips, once transportation improved, went to places where Orville Crowder lived. Many early field trips went to his house in Chase, Maryland, on the Bird River. I thought that was an appropriate place. Later, a lot of the trips went to his "Lost Valley" property on Deer Creek in Harford County. Florence Burner, who was a charter member and first hike chairman, has written an interesting set of reminiscences called "Highlights of the Early Years." I quote from the first paragraph: "From the very first notices there has been confusion about the distinction between the city and state organizations. To quote newspaper notices of 1945, one stated, "Students of Birds Form State Club. Amateur bird students of Baltimore and the surrounding territory have formed the Maryland Bird Club. The first state wide organization of bird lovers and bird watchers in the state since a branch of the Audubon Society passed out of existence some years ago." The other notice, however, reads, "Organization of Bird Club Planned. A meeting of bird lovers and amateur bird students for the purpose of organizing a regional club replacing the Audubon Society. The desire for a club of some sort that will bring together the bird watchers in and near Baltimore." Of course, the dates for the beginning of the Baltimore Bird Club and the MOS are the same, February 23rd, for the first meeting and April 9th for the real organizational meeting. She mentions all the people that were there which is similar to what you can read in *Maryland Birdlife*.

The next thing of historic interest is the conventions. Chan has compiled these (*Maryland Birdlife* 51:57). If you consider that the first meeting was the first convention that those 40 people attended, then the first convention was in Baltimore. The 1946 and 1947 conventions were also in Baltimore. The 1948 convention was the first meeting away from Baltimore; it was up here in the Catocin area, and that is why we are meeting here for our 50th Conference. Steve Simon is the only charter member who is with us for our 50th Conference. A young lady named Eleanor Cooley who was at the first Catocin Conference at Camp Greentop is with us for the 50th; she is now known as Eleanor Robbins, Chan's wife. [Applause] She gave me a note that I found very interesting, "Orville Crowder succeeded in getting a Baltimore Bird Club organized in 1945. In 1946 I was working in Balti-

more. I attended a board meeting in the spring in the Natural History Society rooms on Bolton St. Orville said he had persuaded Chandler Robbins, editor of the *Wood Thrush*, journal of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States (D.C.) to edit *Maryland Birdlife* and bring it up to date. Soon after I was married to Chan (April 1948), Orville phoned me saying I just had to go to the first MOS Convention to give a talk and some workshops on ferns, finding bird nests or something. Helen Miller had arranged for a square dance group to entertain us. The volunteer cook was Bryant Tyrrell (the wildlife photographer and eagle investigator). That summer Mrs. Miller started a nature camp for Allegany County school children." So, we have here today someone who was at the first real convention. I'm sure Chan was there also.

So, Chan took over the job as Editor. Incidentally Orville Crowder personally mimeographed the first bulletins that go through the 1950's. The first Editors were Mr. and Mrs. Millard C. Kent and Haven Kolb. In 1946 it was Haven Kolb and in 1947 Chandler Robbins took over as Editor and has been Editor ever since; and *Maryland Birdlife* is caught up to date now. [Applause]

As time went on we added the *Yellowthroat* in 1980. Dan Boone was the first Editor of that. He was Editor for two years. He was followed by Cameron Lewis who was Editor until 1985 and Mark Hoffman from 1985 to 1993. Now Norman Saunders is the Editor of the *Yellowthroat*.

"The Sanctuary Fund started when Mr. E. John Besson presented a \$500.00 gift to MOS in memory of his sister, Adele, to start a sanctuary fund. This was in about 1961." The first sanctuary, Rock Run, was leased for a dollar a year from 1960 until the property became part of Susquehanna State Park. Carey Run Sanctuary was purchased in 1962; Mill Creek in 1964; and Irish Grove in 1967. The later sanctuaries were received as gifts or bequests: Adventure in 1969; Myrtle Simon Pelot, 1972; tum Suden, 1976; Mandares Creek, 1977; Seymour B. Cooper, 1978; Caroline W. Wilson, 1989; and Marengo Woods, 1990.

This talk was followed by slides from Orville Crowder and others that relate to some of these places such as Chase, Maryland, the Hastings- Miramar Hotel in Ocean City, site of many MOS conventions, "Lost Valley" in Deer Creek (once home to Maryland's only endemic species, the Maryland Darter, a fish that is now extinct) and which was eventually sold to the state (Orville's ashes were scattered at Lost Valley), one of the 67 Junior Clubs that were in existence when Orville Crowder was President, Carey Run dedication, Deep Creek Lake trips, social gatherings, Irish Grove, Blackwater, Orville Crowder, who eventually traveled to every country in the world but six, and Carl Carlson, founder of the Montgomery Chapter. So these are some of the important people and events of the early days.

10418 Brookmoor Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

June 24, 1995

The annual business meeting was held during the 50th Annual Conference at Mount Saint Mary's College at Emmitsburg, MD. Bob Rineer called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. after a lecture on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers by Dr. Jerry Jackson.

An award was given for 50 years of service to Chan and Eleanor Robbins.

The following slate of officers was presented: President, Allan Haury; Vice President, Robert Rineer; Treasurer, Jeff Metter; and Secretary Sybil Williams. The slate was seconded and approved. The new Bylaws Committee Chairman is John Malcolm.

The Baltimore Bird Club Hot Line is 410-467-0653. This will be used to report birds and as a Mail Box for other birders.

The President thanked all of those responsible for the conference.

There were no reports from the Vice President, Secretary, or Executive Secretary, or from the Investments, Library, Calendar, Cavity Nesting, County List, May Count or Mailing List committees.

Conference Committee. The conference for 1996 will be held at the University of Maryland at Baltimore in June.

Conservation Report. Fifteen American laws passed over the last 50 years in the realm of conservation are all threatened. Please write your representative and sign the letter, contact your representative and speak out. There is not much on the state level to protest. Project Open Space has been a success. It has improved the quality of bird habitat and was supported by conservation groups.

Education Committee. This is the second year to be supported by money, \$4,100/year. Please see report on page 122. Eight of the 16 chapters applied for funding. Please get a copy of the form to apply for money. The Education Committee would like the video *BIRD* to go to every school district and asks each chapter to use \$200 for more videos. Partners in Flight (PIF) gave their first grant for Partners in Art to 17 class rooms to exchange art with Central and South America. PIF will sell patches for \$3 to raise money for PIF programs. April 1, 1996 is the deadline for applying for funds from the Education Committee.

Gifts Committee. Talbot County Chapter arranged for the \$125,000 Wanuga Fund to go to the Wildfowl Trust's Horsehead Sanctuary near Grasonville for expansion.

Long Range Planning Committee. The following recommendations are for the next 50 years: Publicize MOS, Involve individuals, Publish scheduled periodicals in a timely fashion, Protect birds and habitat, Examine who we are and what we wish to accomplish. The committee wants MOS to be a data collecting body and have a role in habitat preservation.

Research Committee. One grant proposal was received and awarded \$3,000 for a study of blood parasites in water birds. Guidelines are available for submitting grant requests.

Sanctuary Committee. There were two work days at Irish Grove Sanctuary and one at Carey Run working on the steps.

Scholarship Committee. This year there were 21 applicants and 9 scholarships were awarded.

Publications Committee. Publication of *Maryland Birdlife* is now up to date. Annual reports of chapter presidents and committee chairpersons are due immediately for inclusion in the September issue.

Records Committee. Six packages containing 77 records were circulated among committee members in the past year. Work is progressing on a list of records processed to date.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Williams, Secretary



SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1994

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The spring was cool and wetter than normal. There was a holdover of northern species from the extraordinary winter season, but despite the rough winter, some observers commented that the spring arrivals were on schedule or a little early. Once again, the worrisome poor passerine migration trend, evident for several years, continued. A severe outbreak of avian cholera in the Chesapeake Bay area killed many waterfowl. The epidemic could have been much worse if not for the quick and professional response of numerous government agencies and individuals to collect carcasses and help contain the spread of the disease. According to a report by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, approximately 55,000 birds died with over 21,000 carcasses recovered in Virginia and about 13,000 in Maryland. Sea ducks suffered the greatest mortality, especially Oldsquaws.

Observers: Henry and George Armistead, Glenn Austin, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Ralph Cullison, David Czaplak, Phil Davis, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Frederick Fallon, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Cecily & Paul Fritz, Jean & Larry Fry, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Mike & Grazina McClure, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Barbara Ross, Gene Scarpulla, Susan Setterberg, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner. Banding was conducted at Cherry Creek by Fran Pope and Connie Skipper, and at Irvine by Barbara Ross with assistance from several birders.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area, WS - Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Black Marsh (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Conowingo Dam (Harford), Daniels (Howard), Dan's Rock (Allegany), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Fort Smallwood Park

(Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Gwynn Acres Path (Howard County), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Spesutie Island (Harford), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Town Hill (Allegany), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons. A **Red-throated Loon** was noted at Morgantown on March 19 (Jett), 1 was at PRNAS on April 4 (Rambo), and another was far inland at Rocky Gap SP on April 13 (Twigg). The high count was 700 off Ocean City and Assateague on April 17 (Hoffman), another was seen the same day at North Beach (Ringler), and a late bird was at Assateague on May 22 (Armisteads+, Hoffman). The first migrant **Common Loon** may have been the one noted on a small pond off Folly Quarter Road in Howard County on March 3 (McClures). Others were 1 on the Potomac at Marshall Hall on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), 2 at Dodson Point, St. Mary's County on March 23 (Wilson), 2 at Loch Raven on March 20 and 16 there on March 30 (Simon), 18 at Rocky Gap on April 11 (Twigg), 45 over Rockburn Branch Park on April 17 (Ott), and the last 2 seen at Piney Run Park on May 27 (Ringler).

Grebes. Mark Hoffman and Mike O'Brien had a nice count of 159 **Horned Grebes** at Ocean City on March 4, and others were 27 at Kent Narrows on March 24 (Reese), 19 at Triadelphia on April 2 (Farrell, Solem), and 2, in breeding plumage, at Point Lookout SP on May 24 (Lister). The extraordinary winter invasion of **Red-necked Grebes** was still clearly evident this spring. A sampling of the numerous reports included 4 at Little Seneca Lake on March 5 (Lori Brown), 55-75 at Hains Point on March 3-5 (Howard Elitzak+), 1 to 3 on almost a daily basis on the Susquehanna flats in Harford County, March 1—April 11 (Webb), about 30 at Fort Smallwood on March 4 (Ringler), 70 at Ocean City the same day (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 inland at Hagerstown on March 6-8 (Ringler, Weesner), 1 on the Potomac near Cumberland, March 12—April 13 (Twigg), 2 at Rileys Lock on March 19 (Janice Peacock), 2 off Marshall Hall on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), 2 at Greenbrier SP on March 26-30 (Weesner), 1 at Vienna on March 28 (Ringler), 8 at Loch Raven on April 1, 2 there on May 3 and 1 there on May 31 (Simon), 1 at Assateague on April 3 (Hoffman), 1 in partial breeding plumage at Piney Run from April 25 through May 8 and a pair in breeding plumage there, May 18-27 (Ringler), and 2 in the Baltimore Harbor on May 6 (Wilkinson). Single Red-necks were in Howard County at Triadelphia off and on from March 26 through April 24 (Solem+). An **Eared Grebe** was discovered in DC on March 4 (Ann Sargeant) and reported through March 13 (Ted Unseth, Janet Anderson), and another was at Ocean City on March 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien). An Eared Grebe in partial breeding plumage, for the first Howard County record, was at Centennial Park from March 30 (Farrell) through April 4, and 1 was at Seneca on April 6 (DuMont). A **Western Grebe** discovered at Assateague on April 24 (Hoffman+) was reported there again on May 10 and May 12 (Grace Bottitta).

Fulmar, Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets. A **Northern Fulmar** was notched during a March 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City, and 2 **Sooty Shearwaters** were noted off the Ocean City inlet on May 21 along with 10 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (Hoffman+); up to 50 Wilson's were tallied the same day there from a fishing boat (Hoffman, Armisteads). The high count for **Northern Gannets** was over 1900 on the March 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Brian Patteson+). Others were 1 at Cobb Island on March 19 (Jett), 1 near Bellevue on March 31 (Armisteads), 1 at PRNAS on April 2 (Lister) and 3 there on April 5 (Rambo), 400 from a fishing boat off Ocean City on April 17 (Hoffman), several hundred passing by Ocean City on April 23 (Reese), and 14 at Assateague on May 22 (Armisteads, Hoffman).

Pelicans, Cormorants. Mark Hoffman counted three **Brown Pelicans** at Assateague on April 16, and **Great Cormorants** at Ocean City included 2 on March 4 with 1 through March 20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). A Great Cormorant was discovered away from the coast at Nanticoke on March 5 (Dyke), and another was at Back River on April 17 (Scarpulla). **Double-crested Cormorants**, again widespread and numerous, included 43 off Fort Smallwood on March 4 (Ringler), 3 at Ocean City the same day (Hoffman, O'Brien), 80 at Ocean City on March 12 (Armisteads), and 300 at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Sightings farther inland were of 2 flying over Gwynn Acres Path on March 23 (Bockstie, Ott), 1 at Loch Raven on March 30, and 14 there on April 28, and 1 remaining there on May 31 (Simon), 1 at Cumberland on March 31 (Twigg), 2 at Hog Island on March 31 (Engle), 5 (2 of them immatures) at Little Meadows Lake near Grantsville on April 21 (Skipper), an impressive high count of 1500 at Conowingo Dam on April 23 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 1 at Triadelphia on May 30 (Farrell, Solem). An **Anhinga** was reported over the Potomac River at Great Falls on April 30 (David Halstead).

Herons, Ibis. An **American Bittern** was near Laurel on March 26 (Osenton), and 1 was at Piney Run on April 23 (Ringler). Others were 1 flying over the Potomac near Sharpsburg on April 30 (Jim Clark), single birds in Howard County off Lime Kiln Road on May 9 (Wallace) and near Woodmark Lake on May 11 (McClures), 1 flying near Pennyfield on May 12 (Jett), 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 14 (Simonson), and 3 very late bitterns flying over Oxon Creek in Prince George's County on May 24 (Jett). Paul Nistico heard a **Least Bittern** calling at Tuckahoe SP, Caroline County on May 20. For the second consecutive year a pair of **Great Blue Herons** attempted to nest on the Patapsco River at Daniels but no young were ever seen, possibly due to nest damage from storms (Solem+). Three Great Blues were seen flying high over Easton on March 13 (Reese), 26 were over Hog Point on April 6 (Rambo), and 26 were noted at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison). Twenty-five migrant **Great Egrets** were noted at Ocean City on March 20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd). Other Greats included 1 at PRNAS on March 29 (Rambo), 1 at St. Michaels on March 29 (Reese), 1 at Loch Raven on April 4 (Simon), 1 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese), 2 at Piney Run on May 10 and 1 there from May 23 into June (Ringler). **Snowy Egrets** were 4 migrants at Ocean City on March 20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd), 1 at St. Michaels on April 5 (Reese), 2 at North Beach on April 9 (Nistico), 2 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese), and 1 at Centennial from May 3 through June 6 (Solem, Austin+). Solo **Little Blue Herons** were at PWRC on March 21 (Osenton, Gough) and Assateague on March 26 (Hoffman). An adult and an immature were at Courthouse Point WMA on May 21 (Jett). A **Tricolored Heron** was checked off at Assateague on March 26 (Hoffman), and another was flying over Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County on May 29 (Jett). **Cattle Egrets** at West Ocean City peaked at 60 on March 28 (Reese); others of note included 1 at PRNAS on March 31 (Lister), 1 near Roxbury Road, Howard County on April 11 (Wallace), 3 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese), and 115 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 19 (Webb). Paul DuMont reported 3 **Green Herons** at Seneca on April 6, and others were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 11 (Wilkinson), 1 at Centennial on April 11 (Bockstie), 2 at Denton on April 14 (Miller), and 1 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese). A nice count of 43 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was made at West Ocean City on April 25 (Hoffman), an adult was discovered at Piney Run on April 27 (Ringler), and 2 adults were found at Lake Kittamaquundi on May 8 (Chestem). Daniel Hardesty reported 2 **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at Roland Run, Baltimore County on April 18 and Larry Bonham noted another at Hughes Hollow on May 9. **Glossy Ibis** this spring included 9 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on March 22-23 and 4 still there on March 24 (Webb), 1 near Berlin on March 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 4 at PRNAS on March 29 (Rambo), a flock of 75 over Berlin on April 1 (Dyke), 155 in southern Worcester County on April 15 (Hoffman), 19 in Bethlehem on April 23 (Engle), 1 at Allens Fresh on May 14 (Jett), 1 the same day at Myrtle Grove (Nistico), and 1 at Fair Hill on May 22 (Jett).

Swans, Geese. Bob Ringler noted 215 **Tundra Swans** inland at Westminster Reservoir on March 13 and 600 at Piney Run on March 19. Jan Reese observed a pair of **Mute Swans** defending their nesting territory at St. Michaels on March 3, where he counted 42 of the birds on April 14. An adult Mute Swan was at Lilypons on March 27 (Ringler). Dave Webb reported a **Black Swan** exotic at the Susquehanna flats in Harford County on March 10. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at Stevens Corner, Queen Anne's County on March 26 (Ann Hobbs). **Snow Geese** included 300 flying over Spesutie Island, Harford County on March 10 (Webb), and 1040, including 50 blues, at Blackwater on April 2 with 1 adult blue still there on April 23 (Armisteads). A **Ross' Goose** was checked off this spring near St. Martin on March 19 (Hoffman), and **Brant** included 1 at Hains Point, March 4-7 (Dobbins), 1 at the National Arboretum pond in DC on March 23 (Nell Hennessy, Frank Daspi), and 30 at Ocean City on May 14 (Hoffman).

Dabbling Ducks. Jane Farrell and Jo Solem had a nice count of 74 **Wood Ducks** at Triadelphia on March 19, and Ringler and Blom found a leucistic female at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on March 20. Hoffman counted 200 **Green-winged Teals** in flooded fields and at St. Martin in northern Worcester County on March 19; he also tallied 35 **Northern Pintails** at St. Martins the same day. Bob Ringler found 11 pintails at Piney Run on March 12, and Fletcher estimated 40 at Greensboro on March 22. A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at Bayview Farm, Worcester County on March 5, and 35 **Northern Shovelers** were in southern Worcester County, and 30 more were at West Ocean City on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Bob Ringler found a male **Gadwall** at Piney Run that remained through May 19 and a pair on the Sassafra River at Grove Neck on May 22. There were more than the usual reports for **Eurasian Wigeons**: 1 at Greensboro on March 11 (Fletcher), a drake near Hebron, March 13-15 (Dyke), a male at St. Martin on March 19-20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd), a male at Triadelphia on March 27 (Farrell, Davis, Solem) and probably the same bird at a nearby pond, March 29—April 11 (Wallace), and 1 at Swan Point, Charles County on March 29 (Jett). Seventy **American Wigeons** were tallied at St. Martin on March 19 (Hoffman).

Aythya Ducks. High counts for **Canvasbacks** were 600 at Choptank, March 1-5 (D. Ford), and about 500 on the Potomac at the Route 301 bridge on March 20 (Ringler, Blom). Other **Canvasbacks** were 30 on March 23 at Little Seneca Lake (Bonham) and 24 on March 28 at Piney Run, where 1 male remained through May 14 (Ringler). **Redheads** were more widely reported than usual with a pair at Choptank, March 1-28 (Ford+), 6 in a pond at St. Charles on March 5 (Jett), 12 at Havre de Grace on March 5 (Jim Clark), a pair near Burkittsville on March 6 (Ringler), a nice count of 20 at Loch Raven on March 12 (Simon), and a male at Beauvue on March 20 (Ringler, Blom). **Ring-necked Ducks** included the high report of 380 at Brown's Bridge on March 11 (Solem+), about 90 at Beauvue on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), and 1 at Berlin on May 1 (Hoffman). Sixty **Greater Scaup** were at Public Landing on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2 at Loch Raven on April 3 (Simon). **Lesser Scaup** counts were 400 at Public Landing on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), approximately 1500 off Spesutie Island, March 10-18 (Webb), and a male at Piney Run, May 18-20 (Ringler).

Eiders, Oldsquaws, Harlequin Ducks, Scoters. Five **Common Eiders** and one **King Eider** were at Ocean City from March 4 through nearly the end of the month (Hoffman, O'Brien+), and up to 6 **Harlequin Ducks** were spotted there from March 4 through April (Hoffman, O'Brien+); 2 were last reported on May 1 (Hoffman). A lone drake Harlequin was near Conowingo Dam on March 5 (Webb). Inland **Oldsquaws** were a male at Centennial on March 9 (Bockstie, Ott, Zeichner) that was seen there again on March 14 (Farrell), and a male at Westminster Reservoir on March 13 (Ringler). A **Black Scoter** was discovered at Centennial on April 16 (Mary Jo & Robert Betts), 18 were at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead), and 3 were at Assateague on May 22 (Hoffman, H. & G. Armistead). **Surf**

Scoters were 50 at Dodson Point, St. Mary's County on March 23 (Wilson), 1230 near Bellevue on March 31 and 1140 there on April 16 (Armisteads), 2 females inland at Piney Run, May 18-23 (Ringler), and 5 at Assateague on May 22 (Hoffman, Armisteads). A **White-winged Scoter** was noted at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead).

Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks. The best count for **Common Goldeneyes** was 80 at Ocean City on March 19 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). The Armisteads tallied 375 **Buffleheads** near Bellevue on March 31, 2 females were discovered on Deep Creek Lake on May 12 (Skipper), and 1 was at Loch Raven on May 23 (Simon). **Hooded Mergansers** included 55 on southwestern Howard County ponds on March 19 (Farrell, Solem), 15 at Little Meadows Lake on April 21 (Skipper), 23 at West Ocean City on April 25 (Hoffman), 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 14 (Hilton), and a solo male at Piney Run, May 18-27 (Ringler). Nice Howard County tallies for the **Common Merganser** were made with 56 at Triadelphia on March 6 (Osenton, Solem), increasing to 75 there on March 19 (Farrell, Solem). Bob Ringler observed 1 at Wye Island on March 28, 45 were at Loch Raven on April 1 (Simon), and 1 was near Cumberland on April 28 (Twigg). Sightings of the **Red-breasted Merganser** included 132 at Ocean City on March 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 24 at Loch Raven on March 20 (Simon), 40 at Dodson Point, St. Mary's County on March 23 (Wilson), 100 at Triadelphia on March 28 (Wilkinson), and 2 females at Piney Run on May 19 (Ringler). Mark Hoffman estimated 100 **Ruddy Ducks** at Pocomoke City sewage ponds on April 3, and Bob Ringler noted a late male Ruddy at Piney Run on May 20.

Table 1. Hawk Migration at Fort Smallwood Park, Spring 1994

Compiled by Paul & Cecily Fritz

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	2/20	5/2	146	21 on 3/13, 19 on 3/19
Turkey Vulture	2/19	6/7	4,552	684 on 3/23, 634 on 3/24
Osprey	3/5	6/5	399	36 on 4/14, 30 on 4/19
Bald Eagle	3/6	5/15	24	3 on 3/6 & 3/13
Northern Harrier	2/20	5/30	180	22 on 5/8, 13 on 4/30
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/19	5/23	2,531	313 on 4/30, 281 on 4/19
Cooper's Hawk	2/20	5/23	704	64 on 3/24, 59 on 4/19
Northern Goshawk	4/20		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/20	5/6	321	72 on 3/23, 46 on 3/20
Broad-winged Hawk	4/9	6/7	460	122 on 4/19, 106 on 4/14
Red-tailed Hawk	2/19	5/28	462	65 on 3/23, 43 on 3/13
American Kestrel	2/26	5/14	735	136 on 3/30, 96 on 4/3
Merlin	3/20	4/30	29	4 on 4/3 & 4/14
Peregrine Falcon	3/6	5/8	5	
Unidentified			102	

Total 2/19 6/11 10,651
(64 days, 372 hours)

Diurnal Raptors. Paul and Cecily Fritz have summarized the daily raptor migration counts at Fort Smallwood Park (Table 1). **Black Vultures** were first seen at Town Hill on Feb 20 (Paulus), and Jan Reese found 2 Black Vulture nests with 1 egg each, as well as 6 **Turkey Vultures**, with 1 nest and 2 eggs, at Stevensville on April 19. Other Turkey Vultures included 3 flying over Friendsville on March 20 (Skipper), 230 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), and 1 incubating 2 eggs in a hollow tree at Centreville on April 17 (Reese). **Ospreys** began with 2 in Vienna on March 5 (Wicomico BC) and 1 at St. George Island on March 6 (Reese). A pair returned to Triadelphia on March 19 which was the early County date, but no nesting activity was ever observed (Farrell, Solem). Another was at Loch Raven on March 31 (Simon), and 2 were at Liberty Lake on May 29 (Ringler). Single late **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at Schooley Mill Park on May 15 (Ott), and in Salisbury on May 30 (Brodericks). The Armisteads identified a **Northern Goshawk** at Elliott Island on March 12, and the immature goshawk that wintered at Centennial was seen until March 31 (Farrell+). The **Broad-winged Hawk** reported at Hollywood on April 3 was about two weeks early (Rambo). A partial albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen twice during the spring at Brown's Bridge (Solem+), and a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on March 4 and again on March 15 (Webb). High counts for **American Kestrels** were 30 throughout eastern Wicomico County on March 30 (Dyke), and 50 at PRNAS on April 7 (Rambo). A female **Merlin** spotted at Hains Point on March 5 (Fritz Davis) was noted again on March 10 (Dobbins), and others included 1 at Elliott Island on March 12 (Armisteads), 1 at Easton on March 30 (Reese), 1 at Wilde Lake on April 17 (Ott), 8 migrating at Assateague on April 25 (Jett), at least 5 there on May 8 (Hoffman, Stasz, Jett), 3 there on May 9 (H. Armistead), and 1 the same day at Ft. Washington, Prince George's County (Nistico). **Peregrine Falcons** included 1 at Scott's Landing, Worcester County on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 at PRNAS on April 7 (Rambo), an adult on the water tower in Ocean City on March 12 (Armisteads), and 2 at Elliott Island on May 14 (H. Armistead, Paul Spitzer, Peter Hill).

Turkeys, Rails. Twelve **Wild Turkeys** were at Pocomoke State Forest on March 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien), an adult tom was at PRNAS on March 31 (Rambo), and another turkey was at Roosevelt Island, DC on April 16 (Janni). A **Black Rail** was at Truitts Landing on April 24, as was a **King Rail** (Hoffman). A Black Rail was calling in Montgomery County on May 12 (Jett), and another was discovered at Black Marsh on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison, Bob Rineer); 7 **Virginia Rails** were there on April 17 (Scarpulla, Terry). Two Virginia's were at a wetland on the Patapsco near Morgan Station, Carroll County on April 30 (Ringler), 1 was heard at Plum Tree Path on May 3 (Ott), and 2 were heard there on May 13 and May 18 (Ott, Solem, Harvey & Marian Mudd). A **Sora** was notched at Black Marsh on April 10 (Scarpulla, Terry), and another was noted at Truitts Landing on May 14 (Hoffman). **Common Moorhens** of note were single birds at Stevensville on April 17 (Bob Folker, Reese), at Loch Raven on April 17 (Jenkins), and at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. An early **Black-bellied Plover** was at Kent Island on April 3 (Wilkinson), and others were 9 at Blackwater on April 23 (Harry Armistead, Maggie Briggs, Levin Willey+), and 3 on Wilde Lake on May 6 for Howard County's first spring record (Mike Kerwin). Hoffman found a total of about 200 throughout Assateague on May 16. A **Lesser Golden-Plover** made an appearance at Assateague on April 24 (Hoffman), and **Semipalmated Plovers** began with 3 at Blackwater on April 23 (H. Armistead+), and 10 at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Higher counts of Semipalms were 82 at Tanyard on May 14 (Engle), 160 throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman), and 10 at Havre de Grace on May 23 (Webb). Two endangered **Piping Plovers** were noted at Assateague on April 2 (Webb), and 1, in breeding plumage, was discovered inland at Wilde Lake on April 29 (Ott, Solem+). Highs for **Killdeer** were 78 at UMCF on March 15 (Ott, Solem), 40 in southern Worcester County on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and over 50, mostly young, on a farm in Caroline County on May 22 (Engle). Ocean City **Ameri-**

can Oystercatchers included 20 at the 4th Street flats on March 10 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien), and 20 there and another 40 off 23rd Street on April 10 (Hoffman). George Jett tallied 8 **Black-necked Stilts** at Deal Island WMA on May 12, and 2 were checked off at Elliott Island on May 14 (H. Armistead, Paul Spitzer, Peter Hill). Mark Hoffman discovered an **American Avocet** at Assateague on May 16.

Sandpipers. The first **Greater Yellowlegs** were 2 at Ocean City and 2 at Elliott Island on March 12 (Armisteads), and 1 at Tanyard on March 13 (Engle). Hoffman listed 20 in northwestern Worcester County, 25 in southern Worcester County and 45 near Snow Hill on April 23, and 25 were at Blackwater the same day (H. Armistead+). An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was observed at Wilde Lake on March 7 (Solem, Zeichner+), and 30 were throughout southern Worcester County on April 15 (Hoffman). Rick Sussman reported a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Ashton on April 13-14, and 15 were inland at Wilde Lake on April 29-30 (Ringler). Hoffman counted 10 **Willetts** at Ocean City on April 10, and 240 throughout Assateague on May 8. Steve Simon noted the first 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Loch Raven on April 5, another was near Grasonville on April 9 (Reese), 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 13 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), and the last one at Piney Run was on June 1 (Ringler). Three **Upland Sandpipers** were at Belfast Valley, Baltimore County on April 24 (Jenkins), and a very nice tally of 100 **Whimbrels** was made at Assateague on April 30; 2 were there earlier on April 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 1 was there on May 22 (Hoffman, Armisteads). Ninety **Ruddy Turnstones** were totaled throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman). A **Red Knot** was present at Ocean City from March 4 through March 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien+), 1 was at Blackwater NWR on May 8 (Matt O'Donnel), and 40 were at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead). The high count for **Sanderlings** was 2100 on May 8 at Assateague (Hoffman), where 400 were tallied on May 22 (Armisteads, Hoffman), and where several groups of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, totaling 1890 birds, were present on May 16 (Hoffman). **Least Sandpipers** included 20 at Blackwater on April 2 (Armisteads), 1 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on April 9 (Hoffman), 29 at Harford Glen Park, Harford County on May 1 (Webb), 575 at Assateague on May 8 (Hoffman), 33 at Wilde Lake on May 8 (Osenton), 39 at Fulton Pond, Howard County on May 10 (Osenton, Solem), 475 throughout southern Dorchester County on May 14 (Armistead+), 450 throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman), and 13 far inland at North Branch on May 28 (Twigg). Mark Hoffman found 9 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Assateague on May 16, and Wilkinson observed 2 late **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Fulton Pond in Howard County on May 9. Two other Pectorals were at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison). Five **Purple Sandpipers** were seen at Ocean City on May 21 (Armisteads+), and **Dunlin** reports included 1 at Kent Island on April 3 (Wilkinson), 200 throughout southern Dorchester County on May 14 (Armistead+), 6 at Merkle WMA the same day (Fallon), and 1830 throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman). Mark Hoffman found 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Ocean City on April 10 and 135 throughout Assateague on May 16. **Common Snipe** were 35 in a wet field at Spesutie Island on March 14 (Webb), 48 at UMCF on March 23 (McClures), 34 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on March 25 (Webb), a late bird at Wakefield on May 7 (Ringler), and 20 near Bayard, March 22—April 16 (Fallon). Jan Reese checked off 3 **American Woodcocks** at Salisbury on March 11.

Jaegers, Gulls. A **Parasitic Jaeger** was identified just off the beach at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). The first sightings of **Laughing Gulls** were 9 at Harmony on March 3 (Engle), 1 near Ocean City on March 13 (Davis, Hoffman+), 1 at Blackwater the same day (Elitzak), 1 at Breton Bay, St. Mary's County on March 20 and about 100 in the area of Carmichael on March 28 (Ringler, Blom), and 56 at Salisbury on March 24 (Brodericks). Laughters were seen in Howard County with 1 at Centennial on April 17 (Burton Alexander, Osenton), and at Fulton Pond with 2 on April 24 (Wilkinson) and 1 on May 8 (Zeichner), and Mark Hoffman estimated about 800 at the Worcester County landfill on May 3. An adult **Little Gull** made an appearance this spring at Rock Hall on April 1 (Nistico). Concentrations of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were not impressive this season with 240 at PRNAS

on March 29 (Rambo), 40 at Kent Island on April 3 (Wilkinson), 16 at Loch Raven on April 3 (Simon), the high of 761 at Back River on April 10 (Scarpulla, Terry), 90 at Wilde Lake on April 11 (Zeichner), and approximately 250 at Susquehanna flats on April 11 (Webb). A first-summer straggler was at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison). High tallies of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 526 over Town Hill on March 6 (Paulus), 2200 at Trappe on March 11 (Reese), and 1200 in southern Worcester County on March 26 (Hoffman). A mostly albino Ring-billed at Assateague on May 1 was probably the same bird seen there and in Ocean City last fall and winter (Hoffman). The high for **Herring Gulls** was 3000 at the Worcester County landfill on March 5 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien). Fifty Herrings were inland at Town Hill on March 6, and 17 were present on March 13 (Paulus). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was reported at Hains Point on March 5 (Elitzak) and March 28 (DuMont). A first-winter Iceland Gull that had been seen in the winter, was noted again at Piney Run on March 12 (Ringler). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included an adult at the Worcester landfill on March 5 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien), a third-winter at Conowingo on March 5 (Scarpulla), an adult at Piney Run on March 12 (Ringler), a first-winter at Ocean City on March 26 (Hoffman), and a first-year at Hains Point on May 7 (Hilton). **Glaucous Gulls** were not to be left out this season with single sightings at Ocean City on March 25 (Dobbins), at Ocean City on March 26 (Hoffman+) and April 16-20 (Dyke), at Havre de Grace on May 4 (Webb), and at Sandy Point on May 20 (Jim McConnell) and May 29 (Nistico). A leucistic **Great Black-backed Gull** at Choptank on March 28 could have been mistaken for a Glaucous (Ringler).

Terns, Skimmers, Alcids. A **Gull-billed Tern** was identified at Assateague on May 8 (Hoffman), and **Caspian Terns** included 1 at Ocean City on March 28 (Reese), 1 at PRNAS on March 30 (Rambo), 2 at Loch Raven on April 10 and 3 there on April 21 (Jenkins), 38 at Wilde Lake on April 18 (Zeichner), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (H. Armistead+), and 1 still at Loch Raven on May 25 (Simon). Nine **Royal Terns** were present at Ocean City on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). **Forster's Terns** were 8 at Public Landing on March 25 (Hoffman), 1 at the Wye Institute on March 28 (Ringler), 1 at Centennial on March 31 (Alexander), 2 near Bellevue on March 31 (Armisteads), and 2 at PRNAS on April 6 (Rambo). Three **Least Terns** were spotted at Black Marsh on April 24 (Scarpulla, Terry), and 2 **Black Terns** were seen from a fishing boat 6 miles out of Ocean City on May 7 (Hoffman); 4 were at the inlet there on May 12 (Jett). A **Black Skimmer** was at Ocean City on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), with numbers reaching 200 there on May 1 (Hoffman). Another Skimmer was at Hooper Island on May 7 (Armisteads+). Fifty-nine **Dovekies**, 33 **Razorbills**, an **Atlantic Puffin**, and a **Common Murre** were notched on the March 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Brian Patteson+).

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. The first **Black-billed Cuckoos** were 1 in Charles County on April 27 (Nistico) and 2 in Howard County on April 30: off Gorman Road (Wilkinson) and at Triadelphia (Magnusson); another was at Denton on May 21 (Nuttle). Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived at Greensboro on April 26 (Hewitt), at Susquehanna SP on April 27 (Webb), and at Rockburn Branch Park on April 28 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem). The Armisteads noted 9 **Short-eared Owls** at Elliott Island on March 12, and an early **Common Nighthawk** was found at Wilde Lake on April 10 (Chestem, Zeichner). **Chuck-will's-widows** were just a tad early with 2 at Accokeek on April 23 (Nistico), and the early report for the **Chimney Swift** was 1 on April 12 at Centennial (Bockstie, Ott).

Hummingbirds, Woodpecker, Flycatchers. Phil Davis received early reports of single **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in Beltsville on April 14, and in Bowie on April 15, and had 1 at his house in Davidsonville on April 18. Others were a male in Salisbury on April 9 (Brodericks), 1 at Federalsburg on April 16 (Glime), and 1 at a feeder at Norbeck on April 18 (Maria Vacchio). The Armisteads had a nice sighting of a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at their homesite at Bellevue on April 30. The much sought after **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

made solo appearances this season at Assateague on May 22 (Hoffman, Armisteads), at Susquehanna SP on May 23 (Ott, Bockstie), and at the Cherry Creek Banding Station on June 2 (Pope, Skipper). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Hughes Hollow on May 14 (Simonson) and at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Wilkinson). **Acadian Flycatchers** were early with 1 at Hollywood on April 15 (Rambo), 1 seen singing at McKeldin on April 26 (Ringler), 1 near Pennyfield on April 27 (Simonson), 2 at Nassawango Creek area on April 27 (Reese, Dyke, Folker), and 1 at Centennial on April 28 (Bockstie). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at Cherry Creek Banding Station on May 22 (Pope, Skipper). A **Willow Flycatcher** was seen calling, but not singing, at Piney Run on May 10 (Ringler); 3 were at Assateague on May 22 and seen into June (Hoffman, Armisteads). The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Salisbury on April 19 (Lawler). **Eastern Kingbirds** began with 1 each at Snow Hill (Hoffman), at McKeldin (Ringler) and near Violettes Lock (Davis) on April 16. A kingbird was also at Johns Hopkins APL in Howard County on April 18 (Mike McClure).

Swallows. Early **Tree Swallows** were noted this spring with 1 at Cumberland on March 6 (Twigg), 2 at PWRC on March 7 (Osenton), and 6 at Hughes Hollow on March 11 (Rick Sussman). Approximately 500 flew over the Susquehanna flats on March 31 (Webb), and over 200 were at PRNAS on April 6 (Rambo). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** began with 1 at PWRC on March 16 (Osenton), and 3 at Centennial on March 24 (Farrell). A **Bank Swallow** was found at Centennial on April 7 (Bockstie), and another was at Chestertown on April 9 (Reese). Two **Cliff Swallows** were noted a little early at PRNAS on April 8 (Rambo), 1 was at St. Martin on May 2 (Hoffman), and another at Sandy Cove on May 21 (Ringler). The first **Barn Swallow** was near Cobb Island on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), 32 were at Tyaskin on March 24 (Brodericks), 1 was off Roxbury Road in Howard County on March 27 (Wallace), 5 were at Hains Point on March 28 (DuMont), 1 was at Denton on March 29 (Nuttie), 1 was at Loch Raven on March 30 (Simon), and 200 were at Piney Run on May 8 (Ringler).

Raven, Nuthatches, Wrens. A single **Common Raven** called once and was observed flying north over Clifton Beach, Charles County on April 23, very unusual for the coastal plain area (Jett, Stasz). The Armistead family noted a **White-breasted Nuthatch** near Bellevue on April 1, and Elitzak reported a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** at Back River on April 2. The first **House Wrens** were at Denton on April 11 (Nuttie), near Ellicott City on April 12 (Hank Stanton), and at Sykesville on April 16 (Ringler). A lingering **Winter Wren** was checked off at Lake Elkhorn on May 3 (Solem, Ott). Single **Sedge Wrens**, always nice finds, were at E.A. Vaughn WMA on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak), at Bowie on May 7-8 (John Dune), and at DC on May 8 (Ted Unseth); a pair was singing at Kinder Park in Anne Arundel County on May 11 (Rick Mason). Dave Webb heard a **Marsh Wren** singing in the marshes of the Gunpowder River delta in Harford County on April 8, and another was at Truitts Landing on April 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd).

Gnatcatchers, Thrushes. The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Myrtle Grove on April 1 (Carol Gheblian), and 40 were tallied in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman). Barbara Ross heard an early **Veery** at Irvine on April 19 and another was at Schooley Mill on April 25 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem). Early **Wood Thrushes** included 2 at Pocomoke State Forest on April 15 (Hoffman), 1 at Hollywood on April 16 (Rambo), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 17 (Ott, Zeichner), 1 at Davidsonville on April 18 (Davis), and 1 heard at Piney Run on April 19 (Ringler).

Mimids, Pipits, Shrikes. Jan Reese found 2 **Gray Catbirds** at Stevensville on March 1 and one there on March 12, and he observed a **Northern Mockingbird** building a nest in a thorny shrub at Centreville on April 3. A visit to E. A. Vaughn WMA yielded 2 early **Brown Thrashers** on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), another was at Easton on March 13 (Reese), 2 were discovered at Schooley Mill on March 20 (Farrell, Ott, Solem), and 1 was at Beauvue on March 23 (Wilson). Ten migrating **American Pipits** were tallied in southern Worcester

County on April 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported in Beltsville on March 26 (Ted Mikalik), at Kings Landing Park, Calvert County on May 8 (Bud Harrison), and at Cap Stine Road in Frederick County on May 24 (Dobbins) and on May 28 (Wilkinson).

Vireos. **White-eyed Vireos** were a little early with 1 near Hughes Hollow on April 3 (Rena Yount), 2 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), and 1 at Pennyfield on April 10 (Marie Plante). Others were 1 at Centreville on April 15 (Reese), 1 at Gywnn Acres Path on April 15 (Ott), 1 at Spesutie Island on April 15 (Webb), 1 at Tuckahoe on April 17 (Nuttie), 1 at Liberty Lake on April 17 (Ringler), and 1 at Johnson Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney). **Solitary Vireos** were 2 at Rockburn Branch on April 17 (Ott, Zeichner), 3 near Berlin on April 24 (Hoffman), and 1 at Susquehanna SP on May 12 (Webb). **Yellow-throated Vireos** began with 1 at Bowie on April 15 (Osenton, Fallon), 1 at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), several at Johnson Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney), 1 at Seneca on April 19 (Bonham), 1 at Pennyfield the same day (Judy Bromley), and 2 at McKeldin on April 23 (Ringler). Larry Bonham found a **Warbling Vireo** at Pennyfield on April 20, 2 were at UMCf on April 22 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), 1 was at PRNAS on April 30 (Rambo), and 1 was near Bellevue on May 9 for only the second record there (George Armistead). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported: 1 at Salisbury on May 2 (Dyke), and another at Rock Creek Park on May 13 (Janni). **Red-eyed Vireos** were pretty much on schedule with 6 at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), 1 at Denton the same day (Fletcher), and 6 in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman).

Vermivora Warblers, Parula, Dendroica Warblers. An early **Blue-winged Warbler** was discovered at Rockburn Branch Park on April 17 (Ott, Zeichner), and another was at Blades Road, Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman). A nice **Golden-winged Warbler** was found near Ellicott City on April 28 (Ott), a male was at Schooley Mill on May 7 (Magnusson, Solem), and 1 was at Edwards Ferry on May 14 (Bonham). Single hybrid **Brewster's Warblers** were discovered near Pennyfield on April 27 (Simonson) and at Centennial on April 28 (Austin). The last **Tennessee Warblers** were 3 at PRNAS on May 25 (Rambo), and a late **Nashville Warbler** was found at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Wilkinson). **Northern Parulas** began with 1 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), 2 at Pennyfield on April 10 (Marie Plante), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 13 (Wilkinson); an early **Yellow Warbler** was noted at Centennial on April 20 (Bockstie). An early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was near Oakland, Garrett County on April 27 (Skipper), another was in Pylesville on April 28 (Jean Fry), and 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 29 (Newmans). The first report for the **Cape May Warbler** was 1 at Plum Tree Path, Howard County on April 29 (Ott, Solem), and another was at Washington Monument SP on May 2 (Weesner). Connie Skipper tallied 13 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** in just a bit of a hurry at Savage River SF on April 25, and another was checked off at Schooley Mill the same day (Bockstie, Ott, Solem). A lingering **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Wilkinson), and another was at Rock Creek Park on May 21 (Caleb Gordon). The first **Black-throated Green Warblers** were single sightings at Rock Creek Park on April 15 (Janni), near Oakland in Garrett County on April 15 (Skipper), at Wilde Lake on April 18 (Zeichner, Newmans), at Sycamore Landing on April 20 (Bonham), at Loch Raven on April 21 (Jenkins), and at Parsonsburg on April 23 (Pitney). An early **Blackburnian Warbler** was at New Germany SP on April 25 (Skipper). Mark Hoffman discovered 3 early **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Blades Road in Worcester County on March 26, and Arlene Ripley found another in Dunkirk on March 30. **Pine Warblers** began with 5 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien) and 1 heard singing at St. George Island on March 6 (Reese). The first **Prairie Warbler** was found on April 11 near Bayard (Fallon), and others were 5 at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), 1 at Morgan Run Environmental Area, Carroll County on April 16 (Ringler), 1 at Denton the same day (Nuttie), 1 at Twilley Bridge Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney), and 1 at Frostburg State University on April 21 (Skipper). A migrating

Palm Warbler was checked off at Myrtle Grove on April 1 (Carol Ghebelian), and another at PRNAS on April 2 (Lister). The last **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a male at Grove Neck on May 22 (Ringler). The first **Blackpoll Warblers** were 2 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on April 30 (Webb), and 1 at Parsonsburg (Pitney), 2 at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson), and 1 near Ellicott City the same day (Ott). The male **Cerulean Warbler** discovered at McKeldin on April 16 is the earliest record for the state (Ringler). Another singing male was along the Nassawango Creek in Wicomico County on April 26 (Hoffman, Dyke).

Other Warblers. An early **Black-and-white Warbler** was present at Blades Road, Worcester County on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and Bob Ringler observed a Black-and-white building a nest at McKeldin on April 30. The first **American Redstart** was at Seneca on April 7 (DuMont). Others were 10 at Nassawango Creek on April 14 (Dyke), 4 at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), and 2 at Rockburn Branch on April 17 (Ott, Davis, Zeichner). A very early **Prothonotary Warbler** was near Pennyfield on April 9 (Linda Fiske), 6 were tallied at Nassawango Creek on April 14 (Dyke), 10 were present at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), 1 was near Violettes Lock on April 16 (Davis), 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 18 (Bockstie, Chestem, Zeichner), and another was found in southern Howard County on May 3 (Rosamond Munro). The first **Worm-eating Warblers** were 2 at Laurel on April 20 (Osenton), 1 at Gwynn Acres Path the same day (Ott, Solem), 1 at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), and 5 in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman). Early **Ovenbirds** were reported with 4 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), and 1 at Hollywood the same day (Rambo). The first **Northern Waterthrushes** were 1 at Denton on April 17 (Nuttie), 1 at Plum Tree Path, Howard County on April 24 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), and 1 at Seneca the same day (Paul Pisano). An extremely early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported at Centennial on March 11 (Bockstie), and another was at Pocomoke SF on March 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien). An early **Kentucky Warbler** was found in east-central Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman). **Mourning Warblers** delighted a few birders with single sightings at Pennyfield on May 12 (Rick Mason), at Rock Creek Park on May 15 (Ed Bruce) and May 21 (Caleb Gordon), and at Lake Elkhorn on May 29 (Setterberg, Karan Repsher). Eight **Common Yellowthroats** made an appearance at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), and another visited Centennial the same day (Ott). The first **Hooded Warblers** were 1 at Myrtle Grove on April 16 (Jett), 1 at Johnson Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney), 4 in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman), 1 in Laurel on April 23 (Osenton), 1 near Ellicott City the same day (Ott), and 1 near Phoenix on April 23 (Simon). Julie Kelly reported an early male **Wilson's Warbler** singing at Kensington on April 25.

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings. **Summer Tanagers** began with single birds at Kings Landing Park, Calvert County on April 23-24 (Tom Harten), and at Blades Road, Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman). Bob and Jo Solem heard a pair singing upstream from Daniels on May 1st, 1 was south of Great Falls on May 2 (Caleb Gordon), 3 were at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on May 14 (Webb), 1 was at Summit Hall Turf Farm, Montgomery County on May 15 (Bonham), and an immature male was singing at the Liberty watershed, for the first Carroll County record, on May 29 (Ringler) and again on May 30 (Steve Sanford). The first **Scarlet Tanager** appeared at Denton on April 18 (Fletcher), 2 were in Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), 1 was at Loch Raven the same day (Jenkins), 3 were in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman), and 4 were at Trappe on April 24 (Reese). An early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was notched at Hollywood on April 19 (Rambo), 1 was at Bob Folker's feeder in Stevensville on April 20 (Reese), 1 was near Oakland in Garrett County on April 27 (Skipper), 1 was at Centennial on April 27 (Bockstie, Solem), 3 were at Washington Monument SP on April 29 (Weesner), and 1 was at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on April 30 (Webb). Early **Blue Grosbeaks** were 1 in east-central Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman), 1 at Schooley Mill the same day (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), 3 in the Nassawango Creek area on April 27 (Reese, Dyke, Folker), and 1 at Denton on April 28 (Fletcher). The earliest **Indigo Buntings** included a male at Lake Frank, Mont-

gomery County on April 16 (Richard Gillian), 2 at Denton on April 19 (Fletcher), 1 flying over Ft. Meade on April 19 (Doug Stinson), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (H. Armistead+), 1 at Schooley Mill on April 25 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), 1 seen at Irvine on April 26 (Ross), and 2 near Oakland, Garrett County on April 30 (Skipper). The male **Painted Bunting** at Berlin, present since the end of December, remained in the area through the early spring, and was last seen on April 5 (Mary Humphreys).

Dickcissels, Sparrows, Snow Buntings. A few **Dickcissels** visited the state this spring with 1 at a feeder at Ft. Meade on April 18 (John Weidner), 2 singing males near Lilypons on May 28 (Wilkinson), a male near Uniontown on May 29 (Steve Sanford), and a pair plus a second male there on May 30 (Ringler, Bill Kulp). The last **American Tree Sparrows** were 3 at Centennial on April 3 (Newman, Nistico) and 1 at Negro Mountain, Garrett County on April 9 (Skipper). **Chipping Sparrows** arrived in March with 1 at Merkle WS on the 6th (Matt O'Donnell), several in Chevy Chase on the 8th (Julie Kelly, Wilson), 1 at Centennial on the 14th (Bockstie), and 5 throughout St. Mary's County on the 23rd (Wilson). Paul Nistico located 2 **Vesper Sparrows** near Tuckahoe on May 20. An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** arrived at the Mt. Pleasant Farm in Howard County on April 19 (Bockstie, Ott, Zeichner), 2 were at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), and 1 was listed at Blackwater on April 23 (Bruce Peterjohn). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was located at Combination Road, Garrett County on May 24 (Skipper), and a **LeConte's Sparrow** was discovered near Girdletree on April 2 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was at Assateague on April 24 (Hoffman), and a **Seaside Sparrow** was checked off there on April 16 (Hoffman, Todd, Czaplak). Lingered **Fox Sparrows** were 1 at a feeder in Oakland on April 13 (Skipper), and another at Daniels on May 10 (Randy Crook). **Lincoln's Sparrows** continue to be identified with 1 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on May 14 (Webb), a late 1 banded at Cherry Creek on May 30, and several at Schooley Mill, May 7-15 (Magnusson+). **White-crowned Sparrows** were in good numbers all winter at Assateague, and 10 were located there on May 3 (Hoffman); 2 were at Schooley Mill on May 15 (Ott). Sixty-five **Dark-eyed Juncos** were tallied near Bellevue on March 31 (Armisteads), and a late junco was near Wolfsville on May 22 (Weesner). **Snow Buntings** noted this season were 2 at Bolling AFB, DC on March 3 (Larry Cartwright), and 1 at Bradenbaugh on March 5 (Webb).

Icterines. Early **Bobolinks** were spotted passing through with 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 15 (Wilkinson), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Bruce Peterjohn), 1 in DC on April 28 (Beatrice Fitch), and 5 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on April 30 (Webb). Higher counts were 200 at Benedict on May 8 (Nistico), and approximately 300 near Elkton on May 14 (Gary Griffith). The high for **Eastern Meadowlarks** was 150 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a migrant was noted at Morgan Run Environmental Area on April 16 (Ringler). Notable counts of **Rusty Blackbirds** were 30 at Blades Road, Worcester County on March 20 (Hoffman), 50 at Mattawoman on April 23 (Nistico), and a late 1 at Pennyfield on May 15 (Simonson). The high report for **Common Grackles** was about 40,000 flying west over Eldersburg on March 1 (Ringler). The first **Orchard Oriole** was at Denton on April 13 (Nuttie), another was at Parsonsburg on April 20 (Pitney), and 14 were listed at Trappe on April 24 (Reese). Elizabeth Pitney observed a wintering **Northern Oriole** in Parsonsburg from December 2 through April 9, and Harry Armistead found 8 migrants at Assateague on May 9.

Finches. Thirteen **Purple Finches**, in one flock, were noted at Pocomoke State Forest on March 26 (Hoffman), and 25 were at a feeder in Darnestown on April 1 (Robert Mumford). Lingered **Common Redpolls** from the massive winter invasion included 1 near Owen Brown on March 20 (Farrell), and 3 at Wilde Lake on April 2 (Zeichner), 2 at Denton on March 1 and April 16 (Nuttie); a few at some feeders in Phoenix, March 1-17 (Simon); and 1 male at a feeder in Eldersburg on March 4, a male at a feeder at Webster on

March 5, about 7 birds at a feeder in Maugansville on March 6, and 1 heard at Piney Run on March 12 (Ringler). Connie Skipper had Redpolls at her feeder near Oakland in Garrett County from March 9 through April 14, with a peak of 50 on March 17. Mariana Nuttle checked off 2 **Pine Siskins** at Denton on May 10, another was at a feeder in Bel Air on May 12 (Webb), 1 was at a feeder near Oakland on May 14 (Skipper), 1 was heard flying over Carrollton on May 15 (Ringler), 1 was at Salisbury on May 17 (Brodericks), 2 were at Washington Monument SP on May 19 (Weesner), and 3 were at a feeder on Dan's Mountain on May 23 (Sires). An adult **European Goldfinch** was reported at Georgetown on March 19 (Nancy Heard) and in DC on April 2 (John Grandee). Six **Evening Grosbeaks** were noted at the feeders of Janet Cree and Rosemary Thompson in St. Michaels on April 20 (Reese). Connie Skipper tallied 75 Evening Grosbeaks on April 27- 28 and 21 on May 11 at her feeder near Oakland in Garrett County, at least 12 were at Finzel Swamp on May 6 (Glen Richardson), and a lone female was discovered at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Two changes to the By-laws and two to the Manual of Operation were developed during the year. All were approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on December 10, 1994. Changes to the Manual became effective upon approval by the Board. These changes were published in the *Maryland Yellowthroat* [15(3):4].

The proposed By-laws changes, published in the *Maryland Yellowthroat* [15(2):3], concerned Article IX, Committees, and Article XI, Signatures. They were approved at the 1995 annual membership meeting.

William B. McIntosh, Chairman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At the September 1994 Board of Directors' meeting, we presented a slide show to the Board to help outline the Education Committee's proposals and Outreach program. Because of shortage of time, the proposal was not voted upon until the December Board meeting. Meanwhile, the Education Committee, at its fall meeting at Gloria Mead's home, made plans to communicate by mail to approve grant requests. We announced in the January issue of *Yellowthroat* that the grant money was available. The first application was from Partners in Flight, for the "Partners in Art" program.

The Committee met again on April 1 at the Horsehead Nature Center. Two more grants were approved, some rules regarding use of the grant money were approved, and the 1994 application deadline was extended to May 31. We also discussed the budget, and agreed to ask for the same amount of money as in 1994 (\$4,100). The Committee also decided to purchase "Gone Birding" to be used at the 1995 Annual Meeting as an Education Committee program. After that it would be made available to MOS members through the Speakers Bureau.

This year's winning Envirothon team came from Middletown High School in Frederick County. The team will represent Maryland at the international competition in Idaho. We encourage MOS members to contact their local Soil Conservation Service office to volunteer as ornithology instructors for the wildlife portion of the test.

A copy of the 30 minute video "Bird" will be sent to each school district in Maryland, to be circulated among the secondary school biology classes. The video is an MOS gift to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.

Education Committee members this year included Joy Wheeler, David Ziolkowski, David Kubitsky, Joan Stephens, Maggie Duncan, Glorinda Meade, Celeste Bunting, and Elizabeth Lawlor.

We funded the following grants this year:

Baltimore: Taxidermy costs for adult Bald Eagle for Cylburn, \$200. Cecil Co.: PIF slide show, \$55; Cornell slides, \$75; Graphic Slides, \$70. Harford Co.: Towards educational display, \$200. Howard Co.: Towards educational display, \$200. Jug Bay: Kids' Day in the Park, for homeless children, \$49.80; Prince George's Co. School Essay Contest (Habitats), \$75; Ornithology slide show, \$44. Kent Co.: Audubon Videoguide to the Birds of North America, Attracting Birds to Your Backyard, and Birds, Birds, Birds: Why Bird Watchers Watch, \$148; 3 bluebird houses & poles (Millington Elementary), \$40; Towards education display, \$12. Montgomery Co.: Slides of common Montgomery Co. birds, \$150; Teaching aids to leave with children (bird ID cards), \$50. Wicomico Co.: North American Bluebird Society slide program \$75, with audio tape, \$10; "Bluebirds Up Close" video, \$29.95; shipping, handling, and Maryland sales tax, \$17.82. Non-MOS Groups: State of Maryland Envirothon, \$200. "Bird" video for 24 Maryland School Districts, \$387.00. Wildfowl Trust of North America, start-up grant for raptor program, \$200. PIF "Partners in Art" program for 18 classrooms, \$300. Total grants, \$2,588.57.

The Education Committee purchased the following items for use by the membership as part of the Speakers Bureau: "Gone Birding" video and game, \$40; "Bird" video, \$13. Education Committee's operating expenses / slide show, \$304.14. Total grants and expenses, \$2,945.71 (out of \$4,100 budgeted for 1994-95. Only half the 16 chapters applied.

Linda Bystrak, Chairman

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

In June 1955 I visited Central Enoch Pratt Free Library where, you may recall, in 1994 the MOS contributed a subscription to the multi-volumed Life Histories of North American Birds and the multi-volumed Handbook of Birds of the World. Wesley Wilson, Head of the Science, Business and Technology Department, where these publications are kept, took time from a busy morning to escort me from the main floor of the library down two levels to the second stack area, to show me the collection of items we had funded. Taking into consideration the infinite number of books within this grand institution, these volumes, so far 136 "Life Histories" and one "Handbook," are a very small part. Yet in the few moments it took Mr. Wilson to lead me to the stacks he repeated several times his appreciation to us for Pratt's ability to offer these reference materials to their public. He apologized for having to take me so far into the stacks to see the materials, but defended his decision to keep them there for their security. He assured me that they *are* accessible to patrons who make the effort to get a stack pass and they *are* accessible throughout Maryland on Interlibrary Loan. Also, copies have been made of each of the issues of the "Life Histories." Mr. Wilson has found that in the year that the material has been available it has been used repeatedly by many middle school and high school students whose assignments have required them to search into greater depth of bird study than that supplied by field guides and encyclopedias: information about habitats, range, migration patterns, behavior, etc. He feels that they are among the best reference materials they have in the department.

Early in 1995 to announce the introduction of these two new publications he arranged for a display of the materials in the glass cases in Pratt's main lobby. Unfortunately, I did not know about this, so was not able to reap any publicity for the MOS. As yet the second volume of the "Handbook" has not been added to the Pratt collection, though notice was received of its March 1995 publication. We are investigating and have requested the money to be budgeted for its acquisition.

Joy Wheeler, Chairman

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Sanctuary Committee conducted three workday weekends this year at which a good bit of work was accomplished. We are blessed to have people who are willing to come and help us do all this work. Without them we would not be able to maintain our sanctuaries.

Major work done at Irish Grove included:

The fields, which had not been mowed for nearly five years, were reestablished by mowing with a super brush hog and cutting down small trees.

Started a management plan for woodcock habitat by cutting down rows of pine trees, which will be on a 15 year cutting cycle.

The roads to Canal Trail and Round Pond Trail had sand/clay mixture put in soggy areas.

Paul and Linda Bystrak took the case holding the Great Blue Heron home for fumigation and returned it with a nice tight-fitting cover.

Trail maintenance continued with pruning, repainting blazes, and more bridges built.

The house roof was patched and a cover for the living room chimney was built and installed by Mike Knott.

The marsh trail to the grave site on Susan Moore Hummock was finally completed.

The Anne Arundel Chapter planted a memorial crab apple in front of the house.

Two workdays were held. The fall workday on October 29, 1994 had 30 volunteers, and the spring workday on April 1, 1995 had 13 volunteers.

Carey Run had one workday on April 29, 1995. Twenty-two volunteers came to help with the usual house cleaning and trail maintenance and to help Mike Knott build the new steps to the front porch that he designed.

The John Wanuga Bequest: As recommended by the Talbot Chapter, the MOS Board of Directors voted to use this bequest to help the Wildfowl Trust of North America to buy some property adjacent to their Horsehead Sanctuary. A permanent marker is to be erected on this property naming John Wanuga as the contributor.

Please make an effort to visit one or more of our sanctuaries this coming year and enjoy the peace and beauty to be found there. I thank all of you wonderful volunteers who come out on the workdays to work and bird and enjoy good fellowship.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman

**MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR
MAY 1, 1994 THROUGH APRIL 30, 1995**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
OPERATING FUND		
INCOME:		
Dues	20,000	20,032.50
Transfer from		
Sanctuary Endowment	630	630.00
Investment Income	700	1,491.12
Publications Income	1,000	413.00
Mail Permit Contribution	75	37.50
Membership Pins	300	40.00
Miscellaneous		<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL	22,705	22,649.12
EXPENSES:		
Publications Committee		
<i>Maryland Birdlife</i>		
Printing	8,000	7,993.01
Postage	1,000	1,443.08
Labels		233.31
Miscellaneous	400	
<i>Yellowthroat</i>		
Printing	5,000	5,091.01
Postage	1,000	1,146.38
Labels		266.34
Miscellaneous	<u>400</u>	
TOTAL	15,600	16,173.13
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE:		
President's Expenses	100	83.47
Vice President's Expenses	50	
Secretary's Expenses	75	
Treasurer's Expenses	75	54.69
Executive Secretary	2,400	2,400.00
Postage	300	317.40
Bulk Mailing Permits	225	235.00
Membership List Database	450	506.42
Printing and Duplication	200	566.97
Office Supplies	300	
Publicity and Awards	400	53.24
Affiliations	225	225.00
Liability Insurance	550	550.00
Miscellaneous		137.51
Membership Pins/Decals		1,134.89
MOS Telephone 1-800	400	579.64
Calendar Sales Tax		34.33
Contingencies	<u>500</u>	
TOTALS	6,250	6,878.56

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
COMMITTEE RELATED EXPENSES:		
Budget Committee	25	
Conservation Committee	300	11.84
Education Committee	100	246.14
Library Committee	300	
Conference Committee	1,200	37.32
Gifts Committee	50	
Long Range Planning	50	11.80
Nominating Committee	100	
Records Committee	40	
Research Committee	100	9.95
Scholarship		61.47
Contingencies	<u>325</u>	
TOTAL	2,470	378.52
CONFERENCE:		
1994 Conference Income		511.00
Expenses		3,297.34
1995 Conference Income		6,000.00
Expenses		5,341.23
OPERATING FUND — OTHER FUNDS		
Costa Rica - OTS Donation		500.00
Maryland Atlas:		
Balance		2,589.27
Atlas—Chesapeake Bay Trust		
Begin		5,139.53
Expenses		5.04
Balance		5,134.49
Rain Forest Challenge-FUNDAECO		
94/95 Income		4,885.25
Total sent to FUNDAECO		4,885.25
Brazil IEF 94/95 Income		50.00
MOS Brochures		
Balance		2,879.26
1995 MOS Conference		3,000.00
Index <i>Maryland Birdlife</i> :		
Balance		4,000.00
Expenses		1,260.00
Balance		2,740.00

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
SANCTUARY PURCHASE FUND (WANUGA)		

INVESTMENT INCOME:

Div/Int		4,400.44
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SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND**INCOME:**

Dividends	3,000	4,081.03
Contributions	800	88.00
Life Membership	<u>400</u>	
TOTAL	4,200	4,169.03

EXPENSES:

Bond Maint.		15.00
Transfer to		
Operating Fund	620	630.00
Transfer to		
Sanctuary Fund	<u>2,380</u>	<u>2,614.03</u>
TOTAL	3,000	3,259.03

SANCTUARY FUND**INCOME:**

Div/Int	3,180	2,614.03
Use Fees — Irish Grove		407.00
Carey Run		798.44
Signs	<u>300</u>	<u>58.00</u>
TOTAL	6,700	3,877.47

EXPENSES:**IRISH GROVE:**

Mowing	850	1,164.00
Marion VFD	50	50.00
Utilities	450	445.87
Fuel	500	170.34
Taxes	300	532.99
Sand		440.00
Miscellaneous		99.31
General Maintenance	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,503.01</u>
TOTAL IRISH GROVE	4,150	4,405.52

CAREY RUN:

Repairs and Maintenance		156.35
Mowing		350.00
Work day meal		98.47
Utilities		159.34
Miscellaneous		<u>34.28</u>
TOTAL CAREY RUN		798.44

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Liability Insurance	800	837.00
Contingencies		<u>2,000</u>
Total Sanctuary Expenses	6,950	6,040.96

SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance		22,864.47
Div/Int		<u>1,206.59</u>
Balance		24,071.06
EXPENSES:		
Irish Grove		<u>985.14</u>
BALANCE		23,085.92

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Contributions	300	
Div/Int	<u>3,000</u>	<u>4,157.47 *</u>
TOTAL	3,300	4,157.47
* Amount Available for Summer 1996 MOS Scholarships		

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

INCOME:		
Summer 1995 Income:		
Div/Int		3,490.00
Kent County Chapter		495.00
Bourne Scholarship (For 94)		600.00
Audubon Society Refund		<u>200.00</u>
Total Income		4,785.00

SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES:		
Summer 1995 Scholarships		5,485.00

RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Contributions	100	
Div/Int	2,400	2,384.43**
** Amount Available for 1995/96 Research Grants		
*** Also available from 94/95 — 2,106.41		

FUTURE ATLAS ACCOUNT

INCOME:		
Div/Int	1,064.96	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
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UNASSIGNED BEQUESTS

Balance	54,788.71
Div/Int	<u>2,261.81</u>
ENDING BALANCE	57,050.52

EDUCATION FUND

BEGIN	31,875.30
Div/Int	<u>1,666.24</u>
Balance	33,541.54
Education Grants	<u>1,069.00</u>
Ending Balance	32,472.54

YELLOWBOOK UPDATE FUND

BALANCE	11,000.00
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Larry Fry, Treasurer

GIFTS COMMITTEE

The Gifts Committee has not been active this year. There have been no identified needs for recommendations on the acceptance of new gifts or on the allocations of undesignated funds. There also have been no identified needs for solicitation of additional gifts to MOS.

Richard Cleveland, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In 1992, in anticipation of this half century celebration, the Long Range Planning Committee was asked to examine MOS's needs and direction for the next 50 years. After gathering suggestions and comments from members and State Directors, the committee presented its report to the MOS Board of Directors at their September 1994 meeting. A summary appeared in the November/December 1994 issue [15(5):1,3] of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*.

The dozens of recommendations made by MOS members for future Society action and direction fell into five major categories which can be stated briefly as follows:

1. Publicize MOS
2. Involve youth
3. Make scheduled publications timely
4. Protect birds and their habitats
5. Examine who we are and what we wish to accomplish.

Most significantly, there seemed to be little interest in altering the basic aims and concerns of this organization. The majority of individuals were in remarkable agreement that MOS occupies a unique niche among the many environmental, conservation, and natural history groups in Maryland. They felt the Society should continue serving as a data

collecting body and resource on bird-related topics, and it should maintain a prominent role in habitat preservation.

Many, if not most, of us who have gathered to mark MOS's fiftieth birthday will not be celebrating its one hundredth year. I envy those of you young enough to anticipate the convention in 2045. It is in your hands that the future of MOS lies. I am confident that when the centennial celebration takes place, those in attendance will be able to look back with the same mixture of gratitude and pride that we share. The many individuals who provided leadership during the first half century laid a firm foundation for the Society's continued health and its vital role as the state's preeminent bird organization.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairman

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECORDS COMMITTEE

At the March 25, 1995 annual meeting of the committee, Secretary Phil Davis reported that six packages containing a total of 77 records were circulated in the past year. The committee's data base contained 460 Maryland records, of which 159 had been accepted, 1 accepted only to genus, 3 accepted as correctly identified but origin uncertain, 142 were pending, 48 circulating, 55 recirculating, 2 deleted, and 100 not accepted. Of 18 D.C. records, 11 were accepted and 7 were pending. When the committee's new review criteria are finalized, many of the 142 pending records will be moved to a "no review" category.

Marshall Iliff performed a "quality audit" of the database and resolved some discrepancies. Also, observer data were added for older records, and references to *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds* were added.

Documentation is being sought for a long list of sightings of rarities.

A new procedure was adopted to open new records—any committee member can request that a record be reopened. The Secretary will then submit the request and the file to the entire committee for members to vote "yes" or "no" as to whether the record should be reopened. Agreement of a majority of the committee is required to reopen a report.

The MOS Board of Directors directed the Publication Committee to not publish records in the Yellow Book that were not accepted by the Records Committee. Three categories of records are in contention: (a) Records accepted by the MD/DCRC not agreed with by the Yellow Book authors (there are none at this moment); (b) Reports not accepted by the MD/DCRC—but not in agreement with the Yellow Book authors (the only one identified to date is 85-15, the Gray Kingbird); (c) Records not yet reviewed by the committee (we will try to resolve all first state records prior to publication of the Yellow Book).

The following species, not included on the Maryland state list by Stewart and Robbins, were accepted by the committee based on current information without need for additional review: Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Razorbill, Rock Dove, and House Finch.

Bruce Peterjohn was elected to serve as the Chair for the next year. New committee members are Mary Gustafson, Ottavio Janni, and Willem Maane.

Phil Davis, Secretary

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Twenty-one complete applications were received this year, and nine scholarships were awarded. These were record numbers. There are four reasons for the increase in scholarships awarded. First, the new Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship was added this year. Second, our endowment fund did very well this year. Third, we got \$200 back from Audubon last fall because scholarship winner Lisa Shore broke her leg while attending the Connecticut Workshop last year. Finally, this year more people selected the Connecticut Workshop, and none wanted to go to the more expensive Camp of the West.

This year's winners were the following: Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship—Maureen Kief, Naturalist at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. Ecology Scholarship Winners: Helen Miller Scholarships—Karen Chambless, Baltimore Teacher; Robert W. Dyke, Jug Bay Park Naturalist; Michael Mennett, Jug Bay Park Naturalist; and Johanna Rawlings, Harford County Student-Naturalist; Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship—Diana Eisenhour, Harford County Teacher; Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship—Liam R. Kennedy, Assistant Supervisor of Public Education Programs, Maryland Science Center in Baltimore; Edith Bourne Memorial Scholarship—Kelly L. Hortch, Baltimore County Teacher; Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship—Peggy Ford, Talbot County Teacher. Three of the scholarship winners attended the 50th Anniversary Convention: Karen Chambless, Liam Kennedy, and Johanna Rawlings. Another winner, Robert Dyke, who works at Watkins Park, was introduced at the June Board Meeting there.

The following members helped with recruitment: Annette Drummond (Baltimore), Eileen Clegg (Howard), Janet Cree (Talbot), and James Falcon (Wicomico). Committee members are: Margaret Duncan-Snow (Kent), Charlotte Folk (Garrett), Robert H. Hahn (Montgomery), Marilyn Taylor (Anne Arundel), Marion Glass Wilson (Baltimore), and

Isa Sieracki (Harford), Chairman

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Allegany County Chapter enjoyed a diverse and well-attended set of meetings this year, and our membership has increased. We began the year with our annual picnic at Carey Run. Programs were given at the Allegany County Board of Education Building on "Waterbirds of Northern Minnesota" by Dr. Joan McKearnan in February and "Landscaping for Birds" by Nancy Smoger of the DNR in March (also attended by several local garden club members). Live birds were featured at two other programs. DNR Scales and Tails personnel displayed several birds from their collection and answered questions in April, and we journeyed to Garrett County where Kevin Dodge demonstrated Northern Saw-whet Owl banding on two owls caught while we were visiting the banding station in October.

Our annual dinner, held at the Holiday Inn, Cumberland, in November included a Silent Auction coordinated by Gladys Faherty and an array of door prizes collected through the year by Charlotte Folk. Our speaker was Ken Bauer, a nationally acclaimed wildlife artist who lives in Garrett County. We were treated to his beautiful work and his insights on the creative process of an artist in nature.

Field trips were conducted to Dolly Sods, Town Hill, Shawnee State Park, local and Garrett County ponds, and Carey Run. R. W. Twigg led a popular fossil field trip to sites

near Cumberland, and Charlotte Folk and Gladys Faherty shared the beautiful bluebells and other spring wildflowers on a trip to the Bluebell Farm in Garrett County. Fall, Christmas, Winter, and May counts were coordinated and hosted by club members. Several club members also volunteered for the National Park Service breeding bird survey along the C&O Canal, and raised money for Maryland Partners in Flight during the May Count. Bill Devlin provided a report on bluebird box activity at Carey Run and Jim Paulus faithfully counted hawks at Town Hill. Club members and generous volunteers from other chapters helped at the annual clean-up at Carey Run Sanctuary, and the house now has new front steps.

Member Ken Hodgdon continues to publish reports of club meetings and other highlights in the Cumberland Times-News, and does a commendable job of informing the public and sharing the wonder of birds through his comments and excerpts from letters.

Gwen Brewer, President

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

Our Chapter had a very successful year. The eight monthly meetings were well attended and many guests were present. Some of the topics were "Habitat Preservation in the Neotropics" by George Jett, "Birding Guide to the National Forests" by Daphne Gemmull, and "Sora Rails" by Greg Kearns. The regular meeting location for our programs was changed to Annapolis High School because it is a more central location. William Clark presented a program on Hawks for our annual Robert E. Heise, Jr. Wildlife Program in the Blue Heron Room of Quiet Waters Park; funds raised from this well-attended event will go to the Scholarship Fund and the Sanctuary Fund.

Our membership is approximately 198. Most new members learn about our Club from the *Pennysaver*, a weekly advertisement magazine, or the *Capital* newspaper. We are also leaving Newsletter and programs at the Wild Bird Stores in the area.

We conducted 39 field trips this year. Each month we try to have a half-day trip and a full-day trip. We also had several overnight trips like our winter weekend at the coast. We went to North Carolina for a pelagic trip, Chincoteague NWR for a fall visit, and many local good birding areas. I thank member Sally Rowe who rents her lovely Chincoteague home to the Club. (Other chapters might contact Sally for rental information.) Trips were well attended and included many visitors. Participants saw 250 species on an extended April trip to Texas organized by Peter Hanan. We participated in two work weekends at Irish Grove and Carey Run Sanctuaries. We also had two Club picnics hosted at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in the fall and at the Bowie/Lambert's home in the spring. Some of the birds seen on our trips were: Black-capped and Leach's Petrels, Eurasian Wigeon (in 3 states), Harlequin Duck (3 states), Muscovy Duck (countable!), White-tailed Hawk, Greater Flamingo (a speck but countable), Lesser Golden-Plover, Gray Vireo, three species of kingfishers, Blue, Green, Brown, and Gray-breasted Jays, and a Colima Warbler (without a 12-mile hike).

A number of members participated in the May Count, and the Annapolis Christmas Count had a good turn out. The tally for the Christmas Count was held at the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, courtesy of Michael Murdock, Park Superintendent. The Club co-sponsored bird walks with Sandy Point State Park and Quiet Waters Park. We also co-sponsored nature programs at Quiet Waters Park.

Our Conservation Chairman, Eileen McLellan, kept members informed on local and national issues. We also started a new award this year. The Conservationist of the Year Award went to Buz Meyers, who has set up a wildlife area on the Patuxent River in A.A. County that is an excellent birding area. Al Haury and many other members of our Club

help with two bird seed sales conducted by Quiet Waters Park. The AABC shared in the profits.

Peter Hanan, President

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

A new Cylburn bird list was recently published under the guidance of Mark Pemburn and other members. *Chip Notes*, a bimonthly publication under the editorship of Steve Sanford, has evolved and is becoming the sounding board for members. Baltimore Bird Line is a new telephone information service for birders wanting to know about birding activities and sightings in the area. Call 410-467-0653 for information about trips and good birds.

For the 50th anniversary of MOS, a commemorative exhibit of photographs, publications, and reprints recounting past and present activities and accomplishments of the BBC, including a slide presentation, was put together for the 1995 annual MOS Convention. Joy Wheeler and Patsy Perlman, along with others, spent numerous hours creating this exhibit.

Seventeen schools, involving 1,368 children, visited Cylburn Arboretum. Twenty-one volunteers attended a workshop for school guides facilitated by Michael Baker and Joy Wheeler on March 15. Five inner-city children were sponsored at the Carrie Murray Nature Camp last summer. Lenny Marcus has become a counsellor for the Boy Scout ornithology merit badge.

A grant of \$200 from the MOS Education Committee will be used for taxidermy and mounting of a Bald Eagle.

Anneke Davis keeps BBC members updated with conservation issues. She represented the BBC at public hearings opposing the excessive lighting at the World Trade Center building and the housing development project near Cylburn without a buffer zone.

And, lastly, many thanks to the volunteer members of the BBC for all the chores often taken for granted. Without your enthusiasm, we would not have had such a wonderful year.

Sukon Kanchanaraksa, President

CAROLINE COUNTY BIRD CLUB

We held monthly meetings in the Choptank Electric Cooperative's meeting room in Denton the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m., September—May (except December). Programs included Bob Ringler's "Birding in Costa Rica"; Dana and Roland Limpert's "Tundra Swan on the Chesapeake Bay"; a demonstration and discussion of wildlife painting by local artist and birder Kurt Plinke; Dr. Robert Trever's program on "Colorado Pawnee Grasslands, High Rockies, and Colorado Plateau"; Stuart Strahl, Director of Pickering Creek Environmental Center, discussed his experiences in environmental work in South America; L. T. Short's slide presentation of Spring Warblers; Don Meritt's "Bird Islands on the Chesapeake Bay"; and for the final meeting, a potluck picnic at Debby Bennett's house.

The Club sponsored a bird walk at Martinak State Park in September and a Pelot Sanctuary Cleanup Day in October. The Club voted to use the money donated to the Club in memory of Roberta Fletcher to improve some trails in Pelot Sanctuary. Concrete benches and a small memorial will be placed in a strategic birding spot in the sanctuary as well. A committee is working on the project and hopes to complete it by the fall of 1995, when the Club can hold a dedication to both Roberta Fletcher and her husband Jerry.

Steve Westre coordinated the Denton Christmas Count and Wilbur Rittenhouse the May Count. Because Wilbur plans to move to Missouri to join his wife in the near future,

Mariana Nuttle will take over the coordination of the Caroline County May Count.

Mark Grande, who has done a fine job as Treasurer for many years, has resigned because of other obligations.

Wilbur Rittenhouse, President

FREDERICK BIRD CLUB

The Frederick County Chapter had a busy and productive year. Eight monthly program meetings offered a variety of interesting topics for members. We heard excellent programs on "Birding Optics" by Phil Davis, "The Natural History of Owls" by Paul Engram, "Wild Turkey" by Frank Ryan, "Alaska Birds" by Ian Cornelius, and "Butterflies and Butterfly Gardens" by Denise Gibbs.

At our January meeting Peter Stangel presented an inspiring program on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Neotropical Migratory Bird Program. Our membership was moved by his presentation to make a \$500 contribution to the program. Our December program was our traditional Christmas dinner at Araby Church, highlighted by a fine presentation by bird artist John W. Taylor.

The Club offered 12 regular field trips, mostly within the county, but several farther afield—to Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, to Town Hill in Allegany County, and to Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County. As usual, we conducted the Catoctin Christmas Count, participated in the Sugarloaf Christmas Count, and conducted the county-wide May Count. The Club also initiated its first Midwinter Count on Jan. 22.

The annual picnic was held on May 11 at Pinecliff Park on the Monocacy River. In addition to the good food and visiting, some good birds were seen. A highlight was the Red-shouldered Hawk nest with two young and both parents visible from our picnic pavilion.

We continued to operate the local hotline—phone tree to keep members posted on good birds seen in the county. We welcome all birders to place interesting Frederick County birds on the hotline by calling Cathy Calvert at 301-698-1298. Probably the most interesting bird visitor to the county this year was the Anhinga that spent some two weeks in April on Lake Merle, a small reservoir in the Lake Linganore area.

By far the biggest event of the year for the Frederick Chapter was hosting the 50th Anniversary Annual Conference of the MOS at Mount Saint Mary's College, June 23-25. Many members donated innumerable hours to make this event a success. The Carroll and Washington County Chapters also helped. Although time consuming, it was a wonderful experience. Even though rain dampened much of the affair, the over 300 attendees did enjoy themselves. The special anniversary program, two fine evening talks by Dr. Jerome Jackson of Mississippi State University, and field trips that netted 119 species helped make the conference a noteworthy event.

Robert G. Johnsson, President

HARFORD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

We began our 46th year with the annual picnic at Rocks 4-H Camp on Sept. 10 with 45-50 persons attending. Tom Congersky and his crew provided excellent pit beef and side dishes. Participants in the bird walk got number ten views of Black-throated Blue Warblers at eye level.

We solicited ideas for a revision in the banner of the newsletter. Dave Webb's suggestion of *Wrenderings* won out of 12 submissions. Mark Johnson provided the wren drawings.

Dr. William McIntosh revised and updated the history of the Club from 1987 to 1993. Copies of the complete history are available for \$2.00.

The following members coordinated these counts in which members participated: Fall Migration Count, Johanna Rawlings; Rock Run Christmas Count, Dave Ziolkowski; Midwinter Count, Bill Pfingsten; May Count, Russ Kovach. Some students from high school environmental science classes participated in both the Christmas Count and the May Count as a part of International Migratory Bird Day.

The Nest Box Workshop was held again in February and yielded an income of over \$600. The Club applied for an MOS education grant to prepare an exhibit that was used for an Earth Day display in Havre de Grace and also for the 50th MOS Conference in June. Additional money from that grant will be used to purchase bird identification posters, which will be distributed to high school science teachers in the fall.

Speakers for the dinner meetings were: November—Dr. Peter Stangel, "Partners in Flight"; January—Jean and Larry Fry, "North to Alaska"; March—Debbie Delevan, "Wildlife R & R, a new local rehabilitation and release program for injured and orphaned birds and other wildlife; and May—Ross and Beth Hawkins, "Birds of Trinidad and Tobago."

Among the field trip destinations were: Delaware Bay, Mariner Point Park, Rocks State Park, Soldier's Delight, Cape May, Marantha Tree Farm, Bombay Hook, Susquehanna State Park, Conowingo Dam, Bradenbaugh Flats, Loch Raven Reservoir, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Back River Sewage Treatment Plant, Perryman, Gettysburg, Harford Glen, Broad Creek Scout Camp, Eden Mill, and Gunpowder State Park. We held special watches for Common Nighthawk and American Woodcock. A feeder tour in early January visited homes of three members.

We gave donations to FUNDAECO, Harford Land Trust, Wildlife R & R, Partners in Flight, and Harford County Envirothon. Annual awards went to Dave Webb, Lister of the Year (221 species); Russ Kovach, Rookie of the Year; John and Lorna Wortman, Bird of the Year (Common Redpoll); and Les Eastman and Walter and Joyce Sherman, Distinguished Service.

Two Harford County individuals received MOS scholarships. Both Diane Eisenhower and Johanna Rawlings plan to attend the Audubon Ornithology Camp in Maine.

The Club experienced the loss of two members. Mr. Eldred Johnson had been president from 1976 to 1978. Mrs. Joyce Sherman had been a member since 1968; she and her husband Walter were responsible for mailing the newsletters for over eight years.

John Cupp, Sr., has volunteered to organize the Adopt-a-Highway program for the Club. A raffle is held at each meeting to bring in additional income. Work continues on the *Birdwatching in Harford County* brochure.

Harford County Bird Club continues to be a very active organization comprised of many very helpful and cooperative members. A variety of activities affords everyone the opportunity to be involved. The many field trips of varying difficulty and length keep members focused on our purpose: the identification and appreciation of birds. Continued emphasis and attention is also given to habitat preservation.

Jean L. Fry, President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

Jane Geuder and her committee planned a full schedule of interesting programs for the nine monthly meetings. Those evenings were made more lively by the presence of the club bookstore managed by Michele Wright and Ann Marie Raterman, a hospitality table overseen by Maud Banks, and frequent special displays created by Martha Chestem. Two announcement boards featured coming field trips and highlights of those run in the preceding month. A table of free magazines, articles, brochures, etc., encouraged members to browse and to recycle material.

The club newsletter provided timely information to the membership. Editors Susan Setterberg and Paula and Darius Ecker solicited special material from traveling birders. A summary of seasonal bird sightings is now a regular feature along with data from all the special bird counts in which our members participate.

Bonnie Ott continued to plan an extensive array of field trips. She balanced trips to local "hot spots" with searches for specific types of birds such as waterfowl, hawks, sparrows, and herons. Weekday walks during migration proved popular. Bonnie also volunteered to help individuals locate desired county birds by maintaining a master "want list" for those who desired to pursue their passion of county ticking.

The club provided displays at the Howard County Garden Festival, the Conservation Discovery Day, and the Howard County Fair. Martha Chestem updated and added to the chapter's displays for these events along with a special display for the MOS 50th anniversary convention. Twenty educational presentations by thirteen members were made to school classes, retirees, and other groups during the year using the club's mounted specimens or slide programs.

Conservation emphasis this year focused on active involvement in the 1995 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. Bob Solem has reported that the high priority items this year are the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Superfund. He continues to work diligently in providing updated information to the club on these items as he presses forward in pushing the club's position on these acts to whichever politician needs to know.

Numerous chapter members continued active field work with participation in the Triadelphia Christmas Count, Midwinter Count, May Count, and the first ever Fall Count. Seasonal migration records were compiled by Joanne Solem from data submitted by several dozen people. Bird checklists from major parks and open space continue to be compiled under Jane Farrell's direction. The Rockburn Branch Park checklist was made available this year. The new book on bird finding in Howard County, edited by Joanne Solem, is back from the printer and will be available at the MOS convention. Members are also working with the Howard County Conservancy in surveying the birds, plants, and butterflies at Mt. Pleasant, a 225-acre farm. Joanne Solem was selected by the Conservancy to sit on the planning council for a three-year term.

This marked the sixteenth year of the club's twice yearly seed sales under the leadership of Eileen Clegg.

The sixteenth annual list of all bird species seen in the county was compiled for 1994 by Jane Farrell—a record 236 species.

Several club members reached personal milestones this year. Bonnie Ott set a new Howard County record with 222 species recorded in the county, Jane Farrell recorded 304 species in the state for the year, while Peter Osenton reached his 600th species in the lower 48 states as did Phil Davis. For the third time, chapter member Connie Bockstie won the MOS convention pin competition—this time with a Marsh Wren design. She also was published in *Bird Watchers Digest*.

Under the direction and organization of Tom Strikwerda and Martha Chestem, this chapter continued to be responsible for mailing *Maryland Birdlife*.

Chapter members have spent the year actively chronicling the county's birdlife (along with other aspects of its natural history). We look forward to continuing this same intense involvement in the coming year.

David A. Harvey, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

Our year was filled with activity and many changes. We still meet on the third Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Patuxent River Park—Jug Bay in Prince George's County. Our new Education Committee, chaired by Joan Stephens, sponsored a birding day in the park for students aged 8-12 from a county homeless shelter. The children enjoyed hikes, bird watching by boat tour, and a driving tour of the Patuxent River Park and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. All had fun preparing lunch over the grill and were exhausted by the end of the day—as were the club members. Other projects included a slide show of Prince George's County birds, an essay contest for local schools on the importance of habitat, and an educational display board.

A memorial service with the dedication of a park bench was held for charter member Dan Burns. The bench overlooks Jug Bay at the site of our meetings. Dan built many bird boxes for the club over the years and monitored several bluebird trails.

We thank Renee Burns for serving as secretary from the start of our chapter. Thanks are also extended to Wally and Joan Stephens who are moving to Florida in late summer. Wally is a past president and recently a director, and Joan has served as Secretary. They are also migrating south and will return to visit.

Monthly speakers spoke on falconry and the Galapagos Islands. We also participated in the Wildlife Art Show for the Patuxent Visitor Center held at Harmony Hall in Oxon Hill. We hope to have a great coming year.

Mike Callahan, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter completed 38 years of operation as the State celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at the Annual Convention in Emmitsburg at Mount Saint Mary's College, June 23-25, 1995.

A display featuring the founder of the Chapter, Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, former President of Washington College, was shown at the Convention along with the accomplishments of the local group. Late member, Mrs. Dorothy Mendinghall, was celebrated in the display for her contributions to the field of ornithology, depicted in photos and facts from the archives of her banding station, *Damsite*, in Tolchester, Kent County.

Vernon Stotts, retired biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and chair of the Program Committee, was instrumental in bringing outstanding speakers to our Chapter during the year. Topics of major enlightenment were: "Surveying Geese in Canada's Ungava Peninsula," "Maryland's Wild Turkeys," "Shorebirds of Maryland and Delaware," "Olympic Rain Forest," and "Backyard Wildlife."

Field trips, interesting and well attended, were made to: Horsehead Farm, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Pickering Creek, and Delaware Beaches for birds and Horseshoe Crabs.

The Kent County Chapter has a small group, about 60 members, of loyal and dedicated individuals who work continuously to promote the principles of conservation and education for the surrounding community and its population. It is my personal hope that this Chapter can sustain itself and carry the important work of balancing our ecological needs into the 21st century.

On a personal note, as a youngster ten years of age in 1948, I was a junior birder under the nurture of Helen Miller. She taught the local interested children in Allegany County about nature and the out-of-doors. The community were devoted to her for the countless volunteer hours she devoted to the children in the Junior Bird Club and the Nature Camp at Pleasant Valley in Garrett County. In 1965 I was awarded the Helen Miller Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of Maine. At that time I began new birding adventures under the tutelage of Dottie Mendinhall in Kent County. I am ever grateful for those wonderful opportunities and experiences and continue in their memory to try to convey an excitement for birds to all those I meet. Currently working with Senior Citizens, I have a chance to do just that.

Pat Wilson, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Montgomery County enjoyed a fine array of programs and field trips and many opportunities for camaraderie. Meetings usually are on the second Thursday of the month at the Potomac Presbyterian Church in Potomac at 8 p.m. It's a good idea to check the Club calendar because there are occasional changes in meeting nights. Visitors are always welcome.

Julie Kelly organized an excellent, wide-ranging calendar of monthly programs that included Constant Hughes-Treherne on the "Natural History of Southern Africa," Mark Garland on "A Birder Turns to Butterflies," William Maane on "Birding in Florida," Sam Droege on "Bird Counts, Conservation, and Montgomery County," Janet Millenson on "Three Centuries of Birds," George Jett on "Save Our Songbirds: Adopt an Acre," Dave Brinker on "Black Skimmers: Strikers in the Night," and Paul Engman, the "Natural History of Owls."

Franz Hespenheide surveyed the membership for ideas about field trips and pulled together "something for everyone." Forays included beginners trips, a canoe trip, "seniors" trips, and a range of outings both on weekdays and weekends. We continued to sponsor the Seneca Christmas Count; the turnout was excellent. Members participate in an ever-growing number of counts through the year.

Margaret and Don Donald led the fall and spring bird banding program at the Adventure Banding Station in Potomac. The program, which originated in 1972, now has spring and fall migration records on more than 97,000 birds of 146 species.

The Chapter contributed \$770 to the FUNDAECO fund in November. The contribution helped the state organization's contribution to qualify for matching funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Bill Kulp and a committee used money from the chapter's Carl Carlson fund to help prepare a slide show that includes pictures of birds likely to be seen in the county and a script for presentations to groups interested in local bird life.

Norm Saunders and a committee prepared a bird list for Montgomery County. The new list of 317 species was made available to Chapter members and to participants in the 50th anniversary convention at Mount St. Mary's College.

The Chapter's annual social, coordinated by Dave and Jane Winer was held at St. Dunstan's Church in Bethesda. About 100 members enjoyed the annual dinner. As usual

the highlight of the evening was an open invitation for attendees to share their personal bird slides. Everyone had a great time. Membership at the end of May totaled about 320.

Louis DeMouy, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

We continued to meet at 7:45 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday, from September through May (except December) at the Bioscience Building (Bldg. 011A) at the Agricultural Research Center on U.S. 1 in Beltsville. Our members night in September featured Cheryl Mill's report on the summer monitoring of the bluebird trail that Dr. Larry Zeleny had placed on fences at the Agricultural Research Center the year before he and Mary Janetatos founded the North American Bluebird Society. Because of failing health, Dr. Zeleny had found it necessary to give up his bluebird trail after about 15 years, but fortunately, Cheryl Mills and others are continuing his project.

Our other speakers were: Chandler Robbins on "Birding in Cuba," Michael Erwin on "Wading Birds on the Delmarva Peninsula," Erica Wilson on "Farewell to Midway," Deanna Dawson on "Prince George's County Forest Bird Survey," Greg Kearns on "Sora Rails," and Donald Messersmith on "Australia's Natural History." At each meeting we report on interesting bird sightings and Eleanor Robbins shares the latest conservation news.

Vice President Luther Goldman ably filled in for President Pamela Stephen when a change in schedule prevented her from attending our meetings.

For the 50th Anniversary, Eleanor Robbins assembled a collection of her newspaper columns over the past 35 years, Chan Robbins prepared an exhibit of Patuxent Bird Club's conservation activities, and Woody Martin summarized his Red-shouldered Hawk nesting research in a poster paper.

Eleanor Robbins' Book Committee profits of \$221.49 became the core of a \$1,000 challenge to all other MOS members to double it by Nov. 29 for a contribution to FUNDAECO to buy land on Cerro San Gil in Guatemala.

Eleanor C. Robbins, Secretary
Pamela H. Stephen, President

TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

The weekly Sunday morning bird walks, generally to Talbot County hot spots, began in August and continued through late summer and fall. These outings were highlighted by trips to Bombay Hook and Cape Charles, led by Jan Reese and Harry Armistead respectively. December brought the annual bird count. Following a day in the field, hungry birders were treated to a pot luck supper provided by chapter members under the efficient organization of Bobbie Sinderman.

Sunday morning walks resumed in April and continued through May. Steve Ford was scheduled to lead a trip to Milburn Landing, but unfortunately rain dampened the spirits of both birders and birds. Late in the spring, Don Meritt led a walk along the trails at Horn Point. Other leaders were George Didden and Les Coble.

Generally, the participants in the Sunday walks gather afterwards for breakfast at a chapter member's home. The participant who correctly guesses the number of bird species seen that morning wins the highly coveted award, a jar of home-made jelly, provided by Erica Woodman. Breakfast hosts were Marge Baldwin, Eric and Ginny Gradbert, Dick Kleen, Carolyn Mills and John Snyder, Jean and Fred Snyder, Carl and Helen Williams, Janet Cree and Rosemary Thompson, Nancy and Bernie Burns, Bobbie Sinderman, William and Nancy Graham, Jean and Ralph Crump, Joyce and Don Meritt.

On six evenings, three in the fall and three in the spring, you can find us at the Loyola Federal Savings and Loan in Easton, where our chapter meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. In September, Beth Olsen told us how to "Develop a Garden for Birds." In October, David Brinker instructed us on the habits of "Colonial Water Birds." The autumn meetings concluded in November with a slide show by Claudia Wilds titled "Farewell to Midway" in which the terns of Midway Islands were featured.

In February we returned to hear Dr. Robert Trever's presentation entitled "Rocky Mountain High." March brought us Lucretia Krantz of the North American Waterfowl Trust, who provided us with the problems and some solutions in the world of "Waterfowl Conservation." In April Les Coble helped us make sense of the sounds we were hearing in the hedgerows, fields, and woodlands that surround our neighborhoods. It was a good year.

Liz Lawlor, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

Membership has averaged about 70 this year. We held seven meetings from September through April; we do not have meetings in our "Bird Count" months of December and May. Beginning this year we have been meeting in the new Adventist Nature Center, built in a wooded area near their summer camp site. It is a wonderful place, containing many interesting exhibits, not only of birds, but also mammals, beetles, butterflies, and bird eggs. We meet there the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

Our speakers covered such topics as the relationship between the Belize Zoo and the Salisbury (Maryland) Zoo, Rare Birds of the World, the effort to save neotropical migrants through the "Partners in Flight" program, and our final program on life in the Olympic rain forest.

About 24 of our members took part in the Christmas and May Counts; according to our coordinator, Cam Lewis, it was the best May Count ever with 144 species. Also, several members took part in the breeding bird survey along the C&O Canal for the National Park Service.

Our long-time member, Norma Lewis, continues to write a monthly column for the daily paper about her interaction with birds at home and abroad.

Elizabeth Wolfe, President

WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

Membership remained fairly constant with 31 single and 21 household memberships. The Club held eight meetings from September through May, including our annual dinner meeting in March. Attendance averaged about 35 people. We were fortunate to have excellent speakers, three of whom were our own members making presentations on bird life-listing and birding ethics, Partners in Flight, and a report from our 1994 Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship recipient on the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. Our guest speakers covered such topics as The Nature Conservancy (with special emphasis on preserves at Nassawango Creek and the Nanticoke River), re-establishment of Wild Turkeys in Maryland, and distribution and population trends of colonial waterbirds in Maryland.

Our eight field trip destinations included Chincoteague, Bombay Hook, and Blackwater NWRs, Deal Island WMA, Cape Henlopen State Park, and the Bay-Bridge Tunnel. Our June trip ended with the traditional picnic hosted by Carol and Donald Broderick. Charlie Vaughn coordinated Club participation in the Salisbury Christmas Count and the May Count. Eleven Club members participated in the October workday at Irish Grove, and once again Grace Denit graciously supplied turkey for the workers' mid-day meal.

Club members were active in our community (locally and at the state level) with representation on the Pemberton Park Board, The Nature Conservancy, Maryland Partners in Flight, and the MOS Education and Conservation committees. Club members were actively involved with the Ward Museum in Salisbury. Both John Dennis and Ellen Lawler authored articles for the museum's journal, *Wildlife Art*, and a number of members participated in the Delmarva Birding Festival.

The Club continues to be involved with conservation issues, including speaking and writing regarding erosion of the north end of Assateague, fragmentation of the Pocomoke State Forest, and proposed development of a fragile wooded/wetland area in Salisbury.

Susan Potts, President

FIRST SEASIDE SPARROWS IN HARFORD COUNTY IN 44 YEARS

DAVID W. WEBB AND JON G. CUPP, SR.

Both of us had been looking forward to the 1995 Earth Day celebration in Havre de Grace, Maryland, on April 22. This was especially true for Cupp, as he had recently purchased a video camcorder and was eager to see how it would work filming birds. Little did he know that on its first day in the field the camcorder would help document the first Seaside Sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus*) seen in Harford County in over 40 years.

We met shortly after 8:30 a.m. near the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in eastern Harford County. A half-mile boardwalk completed in 1994, known as the Promenade, skirts the shoreline of the river and the Chesapeake Bay on the town's east side. Later that morning, Webb and other Harford County MOS members were scheduled to set up telescopes on the Promenade to show passers-by birds that happened to be along the shore or out over the headwaters of the Chesapeake. At about 9:25 a.m., Webb found a Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) singing from a narrow strip of cattails along the water's edge and summoned Cupp to have a look. While we were trying to relocate the wren, a small dark bird popped out of the reeds onto the muddy shore created by the low tide.

Our first impression of the bird was that of a small, drab passerine. Seen from 15 feet with the naked eye, the large bill was noticeable and was the first hint as to the bird's identity. Once the bird was seen through binoculars, the yellow lores and gray and olive feathering confirmed our suspicions—a Seaside Sparrow. We stared at each other in disbelief. Shortly afterward, Dennis Kirkwood arrived and verified the identification. Within minutes and much to everyone's delight, a second Seaside Sparrow appeared only a few yards away from the first bird. (Later we learned that Mary Procell, also of Harford MOS, had seen one of the Seaside Sparrows at 7:45 that morning.)

Cupp shot some footage of the birds with his camcorder, but the battery soon went dead. Returning with recharged batteries a few hours later, he shot excellent footage of both Seaside Sparrows. Throughout the morning Webb kept vigil over the birds and wrote detailed field notes.

The following plumage description applies to both birds, except for differences notes in the lores. The head was gray with olive lateral crown stripes. The lores were yellow

(somewhat brighter on one of the birds). The yellow of the lores continued hindward and blended into a very thin white supercilium (a field mark that we have not found described in the major field guides). A cream moustacial stripe gradually darkened into buff as it curled up toward the auriculars. The mandibles were sharp, relatively long and gray. The upper mandible showed slight downward curvature along the culmen. The iris was brown.

The chin and throat were clean white. The remainder of the underparts were patterned with diffuse gray and white streaking. The flanks were a darker gray than the center of the breast and belly. The feet and legs were flesh-colored; however, most noticeable were the long toes.

An olive nape stood out from the gray head, back, and mantle; the back and mantle were boldly patterned with coarse dark gray longitudinal stripes. The tail was sharply pointed, stiff, and relatively short. The rectrices were gray, with the outermost ones appearing to have a brownish base. The inner web of each rectrix was very narrow and pointed; the outer webs were wider and sharply angled toward the tip, like the outline of a fountain pen.

The wings were seen only in a folded position, so details about the primaries and secondaries are lacking, except to say they were brown. The coverts were also brown, changing to black toward the tip and with thin white margins. The tertials were black to dark gray, with narrow white margins and brown near the base of the outer web. Occasionally the yellow alula could be seen; however, these feathers were usually concealed.

The birds spent most of their time foraging in the mud and scurrying among the cattails. They flew infrequently and usually for short distances (under 30 feet). They primarily walked; however, we occasionally saw them hopping when atop pieces of driftwood.

The sparrows were not the least bit concerned by the presence of the 'Marsh Wren. However, an aggressive Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) forced the Seaside Sparrows to flush on several occasions.

The pair sparingly interacted with each other, preferring to forage alone. Only once during the five hours of observation did we hear any vocalizations. That occurred after a 15-minute downpour when the sparrow with the brighter lores quietly sang a typical Seaside Sparrow song short, reedy. We also heard call notes, a quiet *chek*, from each sparrow.

Almost as big a thrill as finding the sparrows was the chance to show them to the scores of people who happened by over the course of the next five hours. Once we explained how rare this sighting was for the northern Chesapeake Bay, most people stopped for a few minutes to watch the birds and ask questions. The sparrows were so close to us that binoculars were not usually needed; all that was needed was perhaps a little patience. Webb relocated one of the birds two days later at the same location, but no later sightings were reported.

Seaside Sparrows breed in coastal salt marshes. They are fairly common breeders in coastal Worcester County, Maryland, and in the bay marshes of Wicomico, Somerset, and Dorchester counties. Elsewhere in the Bay, they are uncommon and irregular breeders north to Kent Island on the eastern shore and to southern Anne Arundel County on the western shore. North of the Bay Bridge they are stragglers. There were breeding records on Hart-Miller in the late 1970's, but not subsequently. There are about a dozen other reports from Baltimore County and nine from Kent, but none from Cecil. The only other record of Seaside Sparrow in Harford County is from 6 May 1951, when the late Thomas Imhof saw and heard an individual in a freshwater cattail marsh at Gunpowder Neck (Robbins 1951). Farther north, there is a single 1988 record from the Conejohela Flats in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Lancaster County Bird Club 1991). The majority of records north of

the Bay Bridge have occurred between 20 April and 7 June and are thought to represent spring migrants or overshoots. The single August and September records in Kent County are perhaps post-breeding wanderers or fall migrants. There are three Christmas Count records for Kent County.

We thank Rick Blom and Bob Ringler for providing the historical information on Seaside Sparrow records in the northern Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland.

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COMMON RAVENS KETTLE IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

JIM PAULUS

At 11:30 a.m. on 8 August 1994, while hawk watching at Scenic US40 overlook on Town Hill, I observed 14 Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) forming into a kettle directly overhead. The birds were all coming out of the north, down the east side of the ridge. The sky was clear and the wind was out of the east between 5 and 10 miles per hour. The temperature was 13°C (56°F).

While kettling, I could hear an occasional call, and several times I saw some of the ravens go into their tumbling free-fall act.

By 11:35 a.m. the kettle broke up and they formed into a line and moved southward down the east side of the ridge. This whole procedure was very reminiscent of a small kettle of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*).

Prior to the kettle, a pair of ravens flew by the overlook at 11:20, headed south. After the kettle had broken up, a lone raven flew southward at 11:40, making a total of 17 ravens in about 20 minutes. This sighting represents the most ravens I have ever had in sight at one time and the most I have seen in one day in Allegany County.

At about 12:55, I saw 6 ravens coming back, flying northward up the west side of the ridge. Other birds seen that day at the overlook were Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Redtailed Hawk.

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Active Membership (adults)	\$10.00 plus local chapter dues
Household	15.00 plus local chapter dues
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Life	400.00 (4 annual installments)
Junior (under 18 years)	5.00 plus local chapter dues

Cover: Marsh Wren at Upper Newport Bay, California, June 14, 1992. Photo by Paul Nistico.



YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS ATTEMPT NESTING IN TAKOMA PARK

LOLA OBERMAN

On 14 April 1995, I received a telephone call from a Mr. Allen Talbert of Takoma Park who had been referred to me by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Mr. Talbert wanted to establish the identity of a pair of birds he had seen on a nest in front of his home at 110 Parkside. His description of the birds convinced me that they were Yellow-crowned Night- Herons (*Nycticorax violaceus*), but in order to verify the identification, my husband Ted and I made a quick trip to Takoma Park, arriving at Mr. Talbert's home at dusk.

It was on a quiet residential street adjacent to Sligo Creek. Neighbors came out to watch as we trained our binoculars on the two birds, about 35 feet up on a slender branch of a sycamore. Several of them spoke to us and said they had been aware of the birds' presence for about two weeks. Mr. Talbert told us that they had built a nest that fell to the ground about a week earlier.

The birds were indeed Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. One was perched on the branch and the other was sitting on what appeared to be a minimal nest, not at all comparable to the substantial nests we had observed in the heronry at Tom's Cove at Chincoteague, Virginia. It was hard to believe that this flimsy structure of sticks could hold eggs, or that the slender, swaying branch on which it was built could provide adequate support. It was not surprising to us that the first nest (which Mr. Talbert said was sturdier) landed on the ground. Even a minor gust of wind would have blown the new nest down.

Holding little hope for a successful nesting, we asked Mr. Talbert to keep us informed of the herons' activities.

Three days later, on 17 April, I had a call from Mr. Terence Gastelle who lived on Sligo Creek Parkway, only three or four blocks from Mr. Talbert, although the two of them had never met. Mr. Gastelle had been seeing a strange bird in his yard, sometimes in a tree, sometimes walking around among the bushes. The bird he described was clearly a Yellow- crowned Night-Heron, no doubt one of the pair we had seen earlier. Meanwhile, Mr. Talbert reported that he had not seen his birds for a day or two.

The next evening, on 18 April, came yet another call from Takoma Park from a woman who lived on Hudson Avenue across Sligo Creek from Mr. Talbert. Katie Britton reported that she had been seeing a strange bird that flew into a tree opposite her upstairs window at dusk every evening. It uttered an odd croaking noise and made bowing gestures while fluffing out its feathers and erecting a plume on its head. It looked to her like mating behavior, but she saw no other bird. Under poor lighting

conditions, she could not observe all its field marks accurately, but she believed it was the same bird she sometimes saw sitting on a rock in Sligo Creek. She also believed that the bird was beginning a nest, which she pointed out to me when I arrived on the scene as darkness was falling.

Again I saw a haphazard collection of sticks that could have been the beginning of a nest—and saw the night-heron fly into the tree and perch, without engaging in any of the peculiar activity Ms. Britton had described. We did not see its mate.

I put the three Takoma Park residents in touch with one another and asked them all to report further sightings to me, but I got only disappointed reports that the birds seemed to have disappeared from the area.

6606 Melody Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817

BOOK REVIEW

CAPTURING NATURE

The Writings and Art of John James Audubon

Edited by Peter and Connie Roop; illustrations by Audubon and by Rick Farley. 1993. Walker and Co., New York. No index. 48 pp., 7x10. \$16.95.

This is a brief selection of quotations from Audubon's writings as collected in 1986 by his granddaughter, Maria Audubon. It should give young people of about 17 or 18 an idea of the heavy forests that once clothed our nation. Audubon recounts his young life in France, his financial failures, his determination to paint our birds in life-like poses and in the habitat they frequented.

The book is illustrated by Audubon's paintings of Green Heron, Yellow-crowned [Night] Heron, [Black-crowned] Night Heron, Wood Duck, White-headed [Bald] Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Black-headed [Laughing] Gull, Herring Gull, Snowy Owl, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow, and Mockingbird. Rick Farley contributed several paintings of Audubon at work.

Eleanor C. Robbins

SEPTEMBER SIGHTING OF NORTHERN GOSHAWK IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

JIM PAULUS

On 19 September 1995 at 12:43 p.m. I observed an immature Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) soaring about 60 meters (200 feet) directly overhead. I was doing my fall hawk count at Scenic US40 Overlook on Town Hill. This was my 25th day there this fall and a major flight of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) was going by the overlook in fairly large kettles and strings.

The temperature at daybreak was 6.6°C (46°F) and at the time of the sighting it was about 20°C (68°F). Cloud cover was about 30%, and wind out of the southeast between 7 and 12 m.p.h. (11-19 k.p.h.). The sun was behind me, front-lighting the bird as I made the following observations.

When I first saw the bird soaring with tail spread, I thought it was a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) as it appeared to be of the same size, but after going through a brief mental list of field marks, I knew the bird was definitely not a buteo and now suspected that it was a "Gos," my earliest fall sighting for this species in Allegany County. Prior to this sighting, my earliest fall record for this species was on 16 October 1990 and 1991.

I did not see the upperparts, but the underparts were as follows: The coverts were light tan with somewhat darker streaks. The flight feathers were light brown barred with darker brown. The body was medium brown and covered with very wide and heavy dark brown streaks that completely covered the breast and belly, going back as far as the feet and continuing onto the tail coverts. The tail was banded with light and dark bands that appeared to be of equal widths. The terminal band was clear white. The head and legs were not remembered.

After making about three soaring circles, the bird closed its tail (equal bands now plainly visible), made a series of powerful flaps, and glided down the east side of the ridge, heading southwestward. As the bird flew it gave me a rear side view and it looked very much now like a falcon with its wings swept back and very pointed.

I was looking at the bird at the exact moment that it closed its tail exposing a very wide tail appearing as wide as the lower belly. The end of the tail was somewhere between being slightly rounded or moreover somewhat pointed.

No voice was heard and total time of viewing was about 90 seconds. I ended the day with a total of 504 raptors of which 462 were Broad-wings. Other raptors seen that day were: Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Cooper's Hawk (*A. cooperii*), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*), American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and Merlin (*F. columbarius*).

P. O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501

A JULY VISIT TO THE COASTAL PLAIN BY A PINE SISKIN

BY PHIL DAVIS

On 3 July 1995, we had a most interesting visitor to our home bird feeders in Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County...a Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)!

My wife, Barbara, and I were eating breakfast at our dinette table when something unusual caught my attention at one of our feeders. A bird was on our platform feeder (about 10 feet away from us) that normally might have been dismissed as a female or immature House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). What first caught my attention was the high contrast of the bird's dark streaks on its light underbody. I immediately commented to Barbara on the unusual contrast. The bird flew from the platform feeder to one of our thistle (niger seed) feeders, only about 12 feet from us, where it landed on one of the perches, facing us. We could see its bill and immediately saw that it was not a House Finch. I remember saying "long straight bill...looks like a siskin" (but not really expecting it to be one since this was, after all, early July!). We also noted its notched tail and waited for it to turn around or turn sideways so we could see if it had any yellow on the base of its wing or tail feathers (even though we know that the yellow is not always apparent in siskins). Eventually it did turn and we could see that indeed it was a well yellow-marked, adult Pine Siskin.

While on the thistle feeder, we had good opportunities to compare the siskin to the much larger, more blunt-billed House Finches and the slightly larger male American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*) that were present (even though there was no possible confusion since the goldfinches were in alternate (breeding) plumage).

We observed and photographed the bird for about 45 minutes, before we had to leave. We noted that this sighting was only two days after the passage of a strong westerly storm front that brought very high winds thorough Anne Arundel County. According to the data from the upcoming new *Field List of the Birds of Maryland* (in preparation, Stasz, et al.), Pine Siskins have been reported in July in Maryland, but very infrequently.

An interesting, related anecdote was relayed to me by a Virginia birder. It seems that during the survey work for the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas one summer in Northern Virginia, a nestling fell to the ground. Being a young nestling with few feathers, it was unidentifiable at the time. However, the bird was nursed until it was larger and was identified as a Pine Siskin (!). I understand that this was the first Pine Siskin nesting record for the state of Virginia.

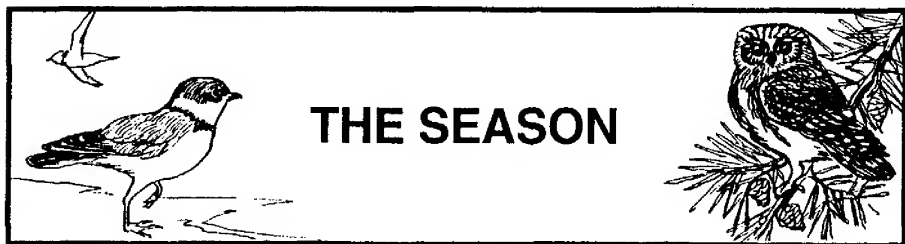
At our home in Davidsonville, we have very good luck with Pine Siskins (and particularly Purple Finches) most winters. We often seem to have these species at our bird feeders when there are few, if any, other reports in the coastal plain or the piedmont. Barbara and I have seen many siskins and have plenty of experience with the species.

It is ironic, however, that this past winter (1994-1995) was extremely mild and for the first time in almost ten years, we did not have any "winter finches" visit us...so we get one in July!

2549 Vale Court, Davidsonville, MD 21035



Pine Siskin, Davidsonville, Maryland, July 3, 1995. Photo by Phil Davis.



BREEDING SEASON, JUNE 1, 1994 - JULY 31, 1994

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

Following a cool and rainy spring, the summer season seemed about typical for the state, with some hot and dry periods interrupted occasionally with brief cooler and wetter spells.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Anne Bishop, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Bob Boxwell, David Brinker, Patty Craig, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Mark Hoffman, George Jett, Nancy Magnusson, Paul Nistico, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Mary Ann Todd, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SP - State Park, WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Bloodsworth Island (Dorchester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Hains Point (DC), Holland Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Spring Island (Dorchester), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes, Storm-Petrels, Pelicans, Cormorants. Summering **Common Loons** were few this season with 1 at Assateague, July 9 through Aug. 6 (Hoffman, Jett+), and another at Loch Raven on July 29 (Simon). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Centennial on June 8 (Farrell), 1 was at Allens Fresh on July 16 (Jett), and another was at Violettes Lock on July 27 (Bonham). No evidence of breeding was seen, and the July birds could be early fall migrants. Fifteen **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were listed off of Ocean City on June 4 (Hoffman, Stasz, Jett), and 17 were noted there on July 30

(Hoffman). **Brown Pelicans** included 5 at PRNAS on June 23 (Rambo), 70 at Assateague on July 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), at least 4 at Smith Island and 4 at Cedar Island WMA south of Crisfield on July 26 (Armistead), and an adult and immature at Point Lookout on July 30 (Craig). David Brinker reported that 6 pairs of Brown Pelicans bred at South Point, Worcester County, fewer than the last couple of years. **Double-crested Cormorants** included 1 at Pennyfield on June 10 (Bonham), 1 at Loch Raven on June 13-14 (Simon), 2 adults and 4 immatures at Triadelphia on June 18 (Magnusson), and 40 at Ocean City on June 25 (Hoffman, Jett, Farrell). Harry Armistead counted 60 at Bloodsworth Island, 40 at Holland Island and 52 on the other islands in the vicinity on July 9 (Armistead), and Dave Brinker reported 350 Double-crested pairs on Poplar Island this season.

Herons, Ibises, Wood Storks. An adult **Least Bittern** with 5 young was reported at Lilypons on June 22 and 25 (Jim McConnell). Four **Great Blue Herons** were at Piney Run on June 25 (Ringler), and on July 9 Harry Armistead counted 121 active Great Blue nests on Bloodsworth Island. **Great Egret** sightings included 1 at Middle Branch, Baltimore Harbor on June 2 (Wilkinson), a migrant at Piney Run on June 25 and 7 birds there on July 23 (Ringler), 22 at Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County on July 24 (Jett), and 7 at Brown's Bridge on July 30 (Farrell, Solem). About 115 **Snowy Egrets** were tallied at Assateague on July 10 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 2-3 Snowy nests were found at Soller's Point in Baltimore County for the northernmost breeding record in the Bay and the first for the county (Brinker). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was at the Charlestown Shopping Center on July 10 (Jett), 55 Little Blues were checked off at Assateague the same day (Hoffman, Farrell), and 3 immatures were at Brown's Bridge on July 30 (Farrell, Solem). **Tricolored Herons** were 30 at Assateague on July 10 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 1 at Point Lookout on July 30 (Craig). A new colony at Battery Island on the Susquehanna Flats contained about 40 **Cattle Egret** and 35 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests, both first breeding records for Harford County (Brinker). Three Black-crowns were discovered at Roosevelt Island, DC on June 15 (Dobbins), and **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were 1 on Roosevelt Island on June 9 (David Abbott), 1 at Point of Rocks on June 18 (Jim McConnell), an adult at Pennyfield on June 27 (Dobbins), and 1 on North Pone Island, Dorchester County on July 9 (Armistead). At Brown's Bridge in Howard County there was 1 adult on July 10 (Wilkinson), and an immature from July 16-26 (Farrell, Solem, Zeichner, Bockstie+). An immature **White Ibis** was at West Ocean City on July 9 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 210 **Glossy Ibises** were found at Assateague on July 10 (Hoffman, Farrell). Fifty-three Glossies were at Deal Island WMA on July 14 (Armistead). Three adult **Wood Storks** were identified flying north over Wicomico County near Fruitland on July 4th (Jim Biggs, Sam Dyke).

Waterfowl. Several birders reported a swan of unknown parentage throughout the period at Lilypons. Speculation ran to a **Trumpeter Swan** or **Tundra X Trumpeter Swan**. George Jett observed a **Tundra Swan** at Allens Fresh on June 17 and Melanie Mitchell reported another at Gaithersburg on July 15. Harry Armistead noted 61 **Mute Swans**, the most he's seen in the greater Bloodsworth Island area, on July 9. Forty-five of the birds were on Adam Island and a pair was found on Spring Island with 1 downy young, for the southernmost Bay breeding record. Jan Reese checked off a **Brant** at Grasonville on June 7. Harry Armistead reported 230 **Canada Geese** with 4 broods of young at Blackwater on June 3rd, a female **Mallard** with 5 young at south-east Bloodsworth Island on July 9th, 40 **Blue-winged Teals** at Deal Island WMA on July 14th, 1 Blue-winged at Cedar Island WMA on July 26th, a pair of **Gadwall** with 5 downy young at Holland Island on July 9th, and 65 Gadwalls at Deal Island WMA on July 14th including broods of 2, 7, 4, 4, and 5 young. Five adult and eight tiny young **Wood Ducks** were at Centennial on July 2 (Farrell, Solem). Bob Ringler reported that 2 drake **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Piney Run through June 7. A drake **White-winged**

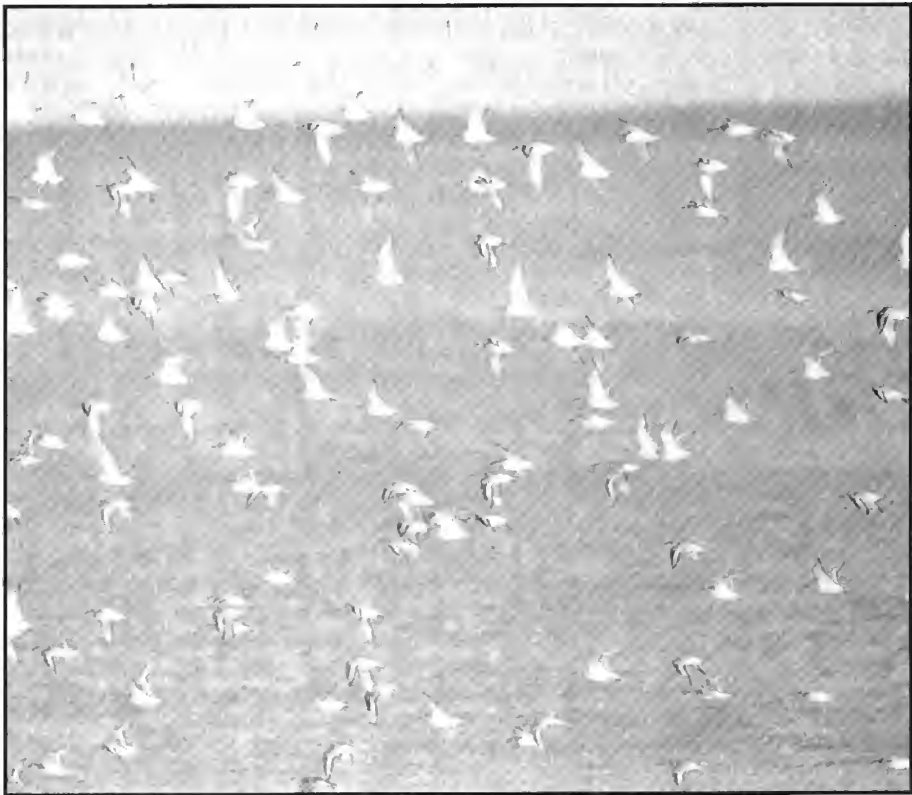
Scoter flew by Point Lookout on June 12 (Ringler, Stasz), and a **Common Goldeneye** was at Tilghman Island on June 18 (Reese). A breeding record for the **Hooded Merganser** was confirmed at Lilypons with 6 juveniles seen in early July (Cooper, Mackiernan).

Diurnal Raptors. Ethel Engle counted at least 63 **Black Vultures** in a kettle at Tanyard on June 5. **Ospreys** included 1 on a nest on the Frederick side of Little Pipe Creek above Simpson's Mill on May 30 (Ringler, Bill Kulp, Jr.), 1 hunting over the Monocacy River near Keysville on June 18, about 6 miles from where the nest was found in May (Ringler), 1 at Loch Raven on June 9 (Simon), and 1 at Triadelphia on July 16 (Solem). A subadult **Mississippi Kite** was reported at Fort Smallwood on June 7 (Ricciardi), and an immature **Bald Eagle** was at the Harney Road pond near Emmitsburg on July 17 (Weesner). Kyle Rambo spied a male **Northern Harrier** hunting over an airfield at PRNAS on July 16, and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** included 1 in eastern Allegany County on July 9 (Ringler, Wierenga, Davidson), and an adult eating a sparrow in a yard in Charles County on July 17 (Nistico). Paul Fritz reported several migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** over Fort Smallwood on June 7.

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails. Jan Reese checked off 2 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Drawbridge in Dorchester County on June 15 and June 22, as well as a **Wild Turkey** with 4 young there on July 1. Twenty-three turkeys including 3 hens and 20 young were at the Prettyboy Reservoir on July 8 (Carroll Hetrick). A **Northern Bobwhite** was seen along Mayhew Inn Road in Garrett County on July 13 and 1 was found dead on July 16 about a half mile away (Skipper). Harry Armistead totaled 31 **Clapper Rails** at Deal Island WMA on July 14, and Connie Bockstie found a **King Rail** at Centennial on June 22, that was noted again on June 23 (Farrell, Solem) and July 6 (Ott, Hank Stanton). A **Virginia Rail** was at Plum Tree Path on June 4 (Solem, Farrell, Osenton) in the same area of a marsh where one was in May. Doug Stinson heard a **Sora** at Schooley Mill Park in Howard County about June 10 and only 8 **Common Moorhens** were found at Deal Island WMA on July 14 (Armistead).

Shorebirds. **Black-bellied Plovers** were seen throughout the season at Assateague with 13 on June 26 and 25 on July 22 (Hoffman, Farrell). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Assateague on July 4 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 110 were there on July 29 along with 15 of the endangered **Piping Plovers** (Hoffman). A **Killdeer** was observed incubating 4 eggs at St. Michaels on July 6 (Reese), and 3 breeding pairs of **American Oystercatchers** were on Spring Island, now part of the Blackwater NWR, on July 9 (Armistead). Deal Island WMA yielded 18 **Black-necked Stilts** including 3 young on July 14 (Armistead), and **Greater Yellowlegs** included 8 at Assateague on the late date of June 5 (Hoffman), 3 at Drawbridge in Dorchester County on June 15 (Reese), 1 at Bellevue on June 30 (H. Armistead), and 35 at Assateague on July 17 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). There were 130 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Assateague on July 24 (Hoffman+). A nice count of 15 **Solitary Sandpipers** was made inland at Brown's Bridge on July 26 (Farrell, Solem). **Willetts** included a western race bird at Assateague on June 26 (Hoffman), 4 breeding pairs on Spring Island on July 9 (Armistead), and 100 at Assateague on July 10 (Hoffman, Farrell). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Lake Kittimaquidi in Howard County on June 6 (Ott, Solem), and at least 12 were at Brown's Bridge on July 22 (Rick Blom). **Upland Sandpiper** reports were numerous with 2 at Trout Run, Garrett County on June 4 (Bjerke), 3 near Snow Hill on July 16th & 22nd and 6 there on July 30 (Hoffman+), 1 at the Shady Oaks Turf Farm in Anne Arundel County on July 16 (Lola Oberman) and July 17 (Chuck Welborn), 1 at PRNAS on July 29 (Rambo), and a pair at Bradenbaugh in Harford County on July 29 (Webb). The first 3 **Whimbrels** at Assateague were on July 4; 35 were there on July 31 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). A **Marbled Godwit** was found this season, a solitary bird at Assateague on June 26 and

July 22 (Hoffman, Farrell). The high for **Ruddy Turnstones** was 66 at Assateague on June 5 (Hoffman), 1 was at Ocean City on June 18 and July 16 (Hoffman+), and 5 were at Point Lookout on July 23 (Boxwell, Craig, Bishop). A **Red Knot** was at Ocean City on June 12, and 20 were at Assateague and 9 were at Ocean City on July 24 (Hoffman+). High counts for **Sanderlings** were 350 at Assateague on June 5 (Hoffman), and 2000 there on July 17 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). About 500 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at Assateague on July 22 (Hoffman, Farrell), where 1 **Western Sandpiper** was located on June 5 (Hoffman), increasing to about 300 on July 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). **Least Sandpipers** were 20 at Point Lookout on July 13-14 (Craig, Boxwell, Bishop), 200 at Assateague on July 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 11 at Brown's Bridge on July 22 (Blom). Mark Hoffman notched 7 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Assateague on June 5, and Dave Weesner discovered 1 near Emmitsburg on June 8. Twenty-one **Pectoral Sandpipers** were tallied at Assateague on July 31 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 65 **Dunlins** were at Blackwater on June 3 (Armistead). Reports of **Stilt Sandpipers** were 2 at Deal Island WMA on July 22 (Hoffman, Farrell), 15 at Assateague on July 24 (Hoffman+), and 2 at Brown's Bridge on July 21 (Marshall Iliff+), for the first Howard County record. A **Ruff** was identified at Assateague on July 17 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Assateague included 1 on



Dunlins at Assateague, Nov. 25, 1991. Photo by Mark L. Hoffman.

June 5 (Hoffman), 12 on July 4 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 370 on July 29 (Hoffman). A Short-billed was at Point Lookout on July 12 (Craig), and another was at Queenstown on July 23 (Reese). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were 2 at Assateague on July 22 (Hoffman, Farrell); 1 was there on July 29 (Hoffman). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen offshore from Ocean City on July 30 (Hoffman).

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers. Jim Wilkinson noticed 4 adult **Laughing Gulls** with a small flock of Ring-bills near Fulton Pond on July 24, and 5 breeding pairs were found on Spring Island on July 9 for the third Dorchester County breeding record (Armistead). **Ring-billed Gulls** included 75 at Egypt Road near Blackwater on June 3 (Armistead), 1 at St. Michaels on June 21 (Reese), and 1 at Seneca on July 27 (Bonham). Armistead noted 275 breeding pairs of **Herring Gulls** on Spring Island on July 9. A first-summer **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Ocean City on June 19 (Hoffman), and 15 breeding pairs of **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on Spring Island on July 9 (Armistead). Hart-Miller yielded 2 **Gull-billed Terns** on June 2 (Hoffman, Robert Dixon); 3 more were notched at E.A. Vaughn WMA on July 3rd and 9th (Hoffman, Farrell). **Caspian Terns** noted this summer were 3 at Blackwater on June 3 (H. Armistead), 1 at Ocean City on June 19 (Hoffman), and 2 at Loch Raven on July 19 (Simon). High counts of **Royal Terns** were 500 at Ocean City on June 19 (Hoffman), and 7 at North Pone Island and 9 at South Pone Island on July 9 (Armistead). Dave Brinker reported 450 pairs of Royal Terns on Skimmer Island in Ocean City this season. A nice tally of 7 **Sandwich Terns** was made at Ocean City on June 7 (Dyke), where David Brinker reported 2 nesting pairs for the season, with one successful. Single sightings of Sandwich Terns were made at Point Lookout on June 12 (Ringler, Stasz), and at PRNAS on June 23 (Rambo). **Roseate Terns** appeared again this season at Ocean City with 2 on June 18 and up to 6 on June 19 (Hoffman), 1 on June 23 (Dyke), and 1 on June 25 (Jett). **Common Terns** included 100 breeding pairs on Spring Island on July 9 (Armistead), and about 1000 at Ocean City on July 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Two **Forster's Terns** were inland at Centennial on June 6 (Solem), 250 breeding pairs were discovered on Spring Island on July 9 (Armistead), and 1 was at Loch Raven on July 31 (Simon). David Brinker reported 400-450 **Least Tern** nests statewide, 100 at Assateague and the rest roof nesters. About 80% of all Least Tern nests in Maryland are found on building roofs. Please report all nest sites to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-974-3195. Once again **Black Terns** were found with a first-summer at Assateague on June 26 (Hoffman); 15 birds were there on July 31 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Another Black Tern was noted at Point Lookout on July 23 (Craig, Bishop, Boxwell). The high for **Black Skimmers** was 400 at Ocean City on July 9 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 25 were at Deal Island WMA on July 14 (Armistead).

Cuckoos, Nightjars, Swifts, Flycatchers. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard on July 26 at American Corner (Engle), and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found incubating 2 eggs in a nest 6 feet above ground in Tolchester on June 27 (Reese). Sue Ricciardi discovered a **Chuck-will's-widow** pair with a fledgling in Pasadena on June 2, and a **Chimney Swift** with 3 large young was found in a chimney in St. Michaels on July 6 (Reese). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard at Alesia bog in northeastern Carroll County from June 4 through July 4, but there was no evidence of a second bird (Ringler). A **Willow Flycatcher**, clearly nesting, was seen at Assateague on June 26 and again on July 17 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). John Bjerke checked off 10 singing **Least Flycatchers** in Garrett County on June 3, and an **Eastern Phoebe** was found nesting inside a Howard County railroad tunnel near Sykesville on May 28 (Ringler+). Jim Wilkinson reported a migrant **Eastern Kingbird** in Baltimore on July 25.

Swallows, Corvids, Wrens, Kinglets. Ethel Engle had a nice count of at least 180 **Purple Martins** on a power line in the shelter of a tree during a downpour in Tanyard

on July 27. A **Tree Swallow**, probably nesting locally, was found at Keysville on May 30 (Ringler). Dobbins found 3 pairs of **Cliff Swallows** probably nesting at Roosevelt Island on June 26. Three **Common Ravens** were noted at Washington Monument SP on July 6 (Weesner). Harry Armistead tallied 85 **Marsh Wrens** at Deal Island WMA on July 14. Connie Skipper checked off 2 immature **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in some hemlocks by a stream along Kempton Road in Garrett County on July 6.

Thrushes, Mimids, Waxwings, Starlings. Jan Reese found an **American Robin** nest with 4 eggs and another nest with 2 young at St. Michaels on July 6. Bob Ringler saw 7 Robins that appeared to be migrating at Liberty Lake on July 10. Jan Reese discovered a **Gray Catbird** with 2 young in a nest at St. Michaels on July 6, and Harry Armistead found a **Cedar Waxwing** nest near Hooper Island on June 11. A flock of about 150 juvenile **European Starlings** was observed at Piney Run on June 7 (Ringler).

Vireos, Warblers. A **Solitary Vireo** was found sitting on a nest with 1 singing nearby along Table Rock Road in Garrett County on July 6 (Skipper). Notable sightings of warblers were few and far between with a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Lake Elkhorn on June 5 (Wilkinson), an **Ovenbird** in Baltimore on June 2 (Wilkinson), a **Northern Waterthrush** at Angler's Inn, Montgomery County on June 13 (Dobbins), all late spring migrants, and a **Mourning Warbler** at Backbone Mountain on June 11 (Jett). Gene Scarpulla noted an immature male **Summer Tanager** at Liberty Reservoir in Carroll County on June 3, and Larry Bonham found another at a turf farm in Montgomery County on June 10.

Dickcissels, Sparrows. **Dickcissels** were noted this season with 2-3 males at Scotland from June 7-July 3 (Craig, Boxwell+), and 1 near Lilypons on June 26 (Jett). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was in Garrett County near Peat Bog and Rock Lodge Roads on July 17 (Jett). Connie Skipper spent a total of 13 days between June 29 and August 6 on about 200 acres of reclaimed strip mine in Garrett County near McHenry and identified about 15 male Henslow's singing on territory. She banded 16, including 8 juveniles at Rock Lodge Road in the general vicinity, and also found 2 at Combination Road in Garrett County on June 15. Harry Armistead tallied 18 **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** and 228 **Seaside Sparrows** at Deal Island WMA on July 14. A male **White-throated Sparrow** was singing at Ellicott City on June 14 (Magnusson), and another was singing in a yard in Easton on June 16 (Bob Sharp).

Grackles, Finches, Siskins. Patty Craig reported a female **Boat-tailed Grackle** at St. Georges Island on June 21 and another at Point Lookout on July 30. Dave Weesner noted 2 **Purple Finches** at Washington Monument SP on June 28, and **Pine Siskins** included 4 at Swallow Falls SP on June 4 (Bjerke), 1 there on June 11 (Jett), and 1 at a feeder in Garrett County near Oakland on June 9 and June 18 (Skipper).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, MD 21046

PILEATED WOODPECKERS BATTLE TO THE DEATH

LOLA OBERMAN

On 10 May 1995, my husband Ted and I set out for a walk along the C&O Canal at Pennyfield Lock in Montgomery County. Finding the towpath teeming with bicycles, we opted for a little-used trail on the opposite side of the canal leading through woods and wetland to an open meadow. To our right was a creek, barely visible through the trees and shrubs lining its bank.

From that direction came harsh persistent squawking noises. Moving closer to investigate, we saw a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) flopping around on the ground under the trees. With the view partially obscured by the undercover, our first impression was that this was a young bird in trouble, but as we continued to watch, we discovered that there were two birds, both adult males, engaged in a mighty battle.

Suddenly a female appeared, flying in from across the creek and landing about three feet up on a tree-trunk, only 20 feet from us and just a few feet from the battle scene. She from her vantage point and we from ours watched intently as the two males rolled over and over, wings outspread and flapping, beaks stabbing. Occasionally one of the two would withdraw and perch low down on a tree trunk, apparently to rest before dropping back down to the battlefield.

Between those brief times-out, their raucous cries filled the air and were noticed by a couple who had come to the clearing to walk their dog. Fearing that the dog might attack the two birds, Ted went over to urge the couple to keep their dog leashed.

Meanwhile, keeping watch at the edge of the woods, I saw the female Pileated depart and fly across the creek. Shortly afterward there was a lull in the struggle and one of the males hopped up onto a tree trunk, clung there for a moment, then gave a loud call and flew off across the creek.

When I turned to report to Ted, he was on his way back, accompanied by the young man, who had left his wife holding the dog. The man had never seen a Pileated Woodpecker and Ted had promised to show him one at close range.

They stepped cautiously into the woods ahead of me and had gone only a few feet when they found the remaining male woodpecker on the ground—dead. Its body, still warm, bore few signs of the battle. There was a small hole in the middle of its back and another, deeper, hole, oozing blood, just back of the eye. Otherwise the body was in remarkably good condition, so we took it to Margaret Donnal, who delivers good specimens to the Smithsonian for study.

Margaret Donnal remarked that she had seen fierce battles between Pileated males competing over territory or over females, and so had I, but never this late into the nesting season, and never one with such a violent ending.

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BOOK REVIEW

WOODPECKERS

An Identification Guide to the Woodpeckers of the World

Hans Winkler, David A. Christie, and David Nurney. 1995. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. Bibliography, index. 406 pp., 7x9.5. \$40.

At last we have a reasonably priced book on the woodpeckers of the world—all 214 species. This is too big and heavy to be a field guide. And it is much more than an identification guide. The brief introduction reviews the taxonomy, morphology, molts, behavior, and world distribution of woodpeckers. This family is absent from many of the small islands of the world and also from large islands such as Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Madagascar, Greenland, Iceland, and Ireland.

A third of the volume is devoted to 64 colored plates that illustrate all species and the most distinctive subspecies of woodpeckers. The facing pages identify the species and plumages, indicate very briefly the range, habitat, and field marks, and refer the reader to the page where the detailed range map and plumage description will be found in the main body of the book.

The poses are mostly stereotyped side views designed for distinguishing similar species rather than for showing all the field marks. The white rump of the flickers, for example, is concealed on all species. Typically the adult male is shown in full and the adult female is illustrated with only a head. Juveniles are illustrated for only a dozen species, five of which are North American: Downy, Lewis', Red-headed, and two sapsuckers.

The species accounts vary from barely half a page for poorly known species to about two and a half pages for species such as the Hairy and Great Spotted Woodpeckers that have more than a dozen subspecies. The identification paragraph in conjunction with the cross-indexed color plate is more than sufficient to confirm species identification. It is followed by a helpful paragraph on similar species. A concise distribution section supplements the map, which shows major rivers but not international boundaries. Sections on movements and habitat are brief but informative; elevational range is included for most species. The adult male is described in detail. Distinguishing characteristics of the adult female and juvenile are limited to a sentence or two and for many species are only marginally helpful. This book was not designed to help banders age and sex woodpeckers.

Characteristics and general ranges of subspecies are described very briefly after their Latin names. No English names are given for subspecies. All measurements are in metric. Banders should be warned that wing measurements are of the arc (erroneously called the "flattened wing chord") rather than the chord which is the standard among North American banders. The paragraphs on voice (including drumming activity) are sufficiently detailed to be really helpful. The sections on habits and breeding are variable, depending on how well the species is known. The food paragraph, when included, is brief and general. For each species one or more important references are given.

This is a fascinating book every birder should examine, whether you travel to distant parts of the globe or just enjoy woodpeckers at your suet. Where else can you find paintings of five subspecies of Hairy Woodpeckers or seven subspecies of Golden-olive Woodpeckers from Latin America? The three European authors have done an excellent job of researching information and summarizing it for easy retrieval. I just wish I could slip the book into a pocket and have it with me on my travels.

Ed.

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